

PROJECT TO DISCOVER
SCHENECTADY **COUNTY'S** EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS
NEWSLETTER

July 2019 Vol. 6 No. 3
Our Sixth Year!

Our objective continues to be to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants.

Please share your family history, help pass on the (electronic) word. The next deadlines are October 15th and January 1st. The October deadline is delayed due to travel. To submit your family story, pictures, etc., e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: abudka@nycap.rr.com. Without your stories, there can be no newsletter. To be added to the newsletter e-mail list, contact Phyllis.

The Schenectady Digital History Archive To find our newsletters on-line:
<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/>

Facebook: Schenectady and Capital District Polish Heritage Facebook Group

Thanks to Brianna Jolie (Guckemus) for starting this Facebook group. It's described as a "closed group" which only means that you can request membership and an "administrator" will give you permission.

Carole McCarthy is keeping a running list of "Surnames of Polish Ancestors Being Researched in Schenectady County" on the Facebook site.

Brianna Jolie has uploaded several hundred St. Mary's Cemetery gravesites to findagrave.com.

Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA)

Thanks to William F. Hoffman, PGSA newsletter editor, for printing our Table of Contents and contact information in "Rodziny" the PGSA newsletter. PGSA Home Page is found at <http://pgsa.org/>

Polish Origins –

<https://polishorigins.com/>

Website allows one to enter surnames and places of interest; a good website.

Thanks to Bernice Izzo, Carole McCarthy and Martin Byster for help in editing this newsletter!

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Phyllis's Note: The Chopin Trilogy

I attended the Latham Polish Festival on June 9th and had a chat with author David Trawinski, selling his Chopin Trilogy. I bought the 3 books and couldn't put them down! They are remarkable, interrelated books of historical fiction focused on modern Poland. Trawinski's page-turner writing style and clear explanation of complex actual historical events from WWII to (nearly) today gave me a better understanding of what the people of Poland have experienced. The story covers not only Poland and the US, but other European countries. Take a look at Trawinski's website at:
<https://davidtrawinski.com/>

Save the Date – St. Adalbert's Festival Saturday, October 12

Writes Chairwoman Carolyn Repka Kozubal: We hope to see all of you at the St. Adalbert's Festival held at St. Gabriel's Parish Center, 3040 Hamburg St, Schenectady, NY 12303, on Saturday October 12, from 11:30 am - 7:00 pm. Come enjoy the festivities and our delicious food.

Old Photo Jackpot Gail Bochenek Demcsak

About 2 years ago (July 2017 Vol 4 No.3) I wrote an article for this newsletter called "Searching My Roots" which was mostly about the Zych line of my ancestors. My maternal grandmother was Mary Zych, born in Nowy Targ, Poland 2 Feb 1884. She arrived in Baltimore on 2 Mar 1905 with brother Wojciech (Albert). They went to Schenectady, where their oldest sister, Antonina and her husband Jozef Galik lived with their 4 children: John 10, Frank 5, Stephen 3 and Mary 1. They had arrived in 1902, Mary's brother Walenty (William) arrived in 1903, then, sister Katarzyna ~ 1904, and brother Jan in 1906. Several of them stayed in the Schenectady area. My grandmother left for NJ in 1911 when she married my grandfather, Stephen Tatka 2 Jul 1911, in Newark, NJ. About 1920, Antonina and Jozef moved to West Haven, VT to what would become the almost 2000 acre Galick Farm. They raised several more children and grandchildren there. It was finally sold to a conservancy in 1989 by sons Steve and Anthony so it would not be developed. After her husband, Albert Beltowski, died in 1925, Katarzyna took her 3 children, likely to his relatives in Detroit, where she remained. I have found no record of brother Jan (1881-xxxx) beyond his arrival.

While visiting my newfound friend and probable cousin Phyllis Budka in Schenectady, I met Christine Munoz, who was Walenty's great great granddaughter. We had connected through his naturalization papers, which I had posted to my tree on Ancestry. I showed her a photo of my grandmother Mary and several unnamed relatives (Fig.1). She confirmed the identity of Mary's brother Walenty. Christine and I have continued to correspond and share new information about our shared ancestors.



Fig. 1: Pictured left to right are: Unknown female, possibly sister Antonina, niece Helen Galick McCormack (John Galick's daughter), Konegunda (Suzi) and Walenty, John McCormack and Mary Zych circa 1959, Schenectady.

Old Photo Jackpot Gail Bochenek Demcsak

In 1927 Walenty finished building a house at 1313 Richard St. He and Konegunda (Suzie) lived there with children and grandchildren. Marlene, the youngest grandchild, had lived there since birth until very recently, when failing health forced her to move out. She is in her 70s.

Once she moved, Christine and family started sorting through almost 100 years of photos, documents and all sorts of things. The first thing she found and recognized was a photo of my grandparents wedding 2 Jul 1911. I am now the proud owner of this original photo. (Fig. 2)

Pictured are: Bridal couple Mary Zych and Stephen Tatka, Wojciech, Mary's brother between the couple. The 2 women are likely Mary's sisters Antonina, left and Katarzyna, right. Man on the right is Martin Unknown, unsure of his relationship. Mary and Stephen were married 48 years at the time of her death in 1959. She was 75.



Fig
2.

Wedding of Mary Zych and Stephen Tatka, 2 Jul 1911. Newark, NJ

Old Photo Jackpot Gail Bochenek Demcsak

A short time later I received The "Old Photo Jackpot" - Wedding pictures, family groups! I finally saw my Zych family as young adults. Since Mary lived in Schenectady several years she was in several of the pictures. So special!!!

Image #3 Zych/Galick family photo circa 1905.



Fig.3 Zych/Galick family photo circa 1905. Pictured are: back row Mary Zych, Walenty Zych, Wojciech Zych. Front from left are John Galick, Steve Galick, Antonina Zych with Anthony Galick on her lap, Mary Galick, Jozef Galick and Frank Galick.

**Old Photo Jackpot
Gail Bochenek Demcsak**



Fig. 4 Wedding of Walenty Zych and Konegunda Gryzlak 17 Feb 1906, Schenectady
Pictured are: John Galick behind Konegunda. Antonina and Jozef Galick behind
Walenty, Mary Zych at far right. Female far left, possibly Katarzyna Zych. Unsure of
others. Walenty and Konegunda were married 59 years at the time of his death in 1965.
He was 83.

**Old Photo Jackpot
Gail Bochenek Demcsak**



Fig. 5 Wedding of Wojciech Zych and Sophia Karpenski 17 Jan 1915
Pictured are: John Galick between bride and groom. Female at far left probably Helena Predel. Unknown child.

Sophia was married and widowed twice before this marriage; she already had 3 children. Helena was daughter to Antoni Predel from a previous marriage. He was Sophia's second husband. She and Wojciech went on to have 4 more children. They were married 21 years at the time of her death in 1936. She was 44.

Old Photo Jackpot Gail Bochenek Demcsak



Fig. 6 Wedding of John Galick and Mary Adamczyk , 4 July 1916 Watervliet, NY
Pictured are: Jozef Galick between the couple. Antonina is behind John , Probably his sister Mary at far right. Assume others are related to the bride. They were married 71 years at the time of his death in 1987, he was 95.

Antonina and Jozef were married 65 years at the time of his death in 1956, he was 88. Antonina died in Nov 1959 at 83, the same month as her sister Mary. Katarzyna died in 1964 at 85. Wojciech died in 1967 at 81.

At this writing the house that Walenty built on Richard Street is on the market with a pending sale, after almost 100 years in the family. Besides Marlene there are great great grandchildren, but none with the Zych name. It is sad to think this may be the end of this branch of the Zych line as well. John and Mary Galick still have one living child , a girl. There may be some living Galick male offspring a couple of generations removed.

I am hoping that Christine's search is not done and that there will be more Zych family memorabilia in the unsorted stash. Ancestry finds are such a treat, but receiving pictures of the family I have been researching brings great satisfaction.

**Old Photo Jackpot
Gail Bochenek Demcsak**



Fig 7. Albina (Mabel) Beltowski, daughter to Katarzyna Zych and Albert Beltowski, born 1910. Picture circa 1930.

Tribute To a Vet

Gail Bochenek Demcsak

This being the 75th anniversary of the D Day invasion, I thought I might share a small piece of my ancestry. Not in any way connected to the Polish relatives in Schenectady, but still a piece of the fabric of my life.

Frank J Bochenek was my 2nd cousin - nephew to my paternal grandfather Andrzej Bochenek. I knew nothing of Frank but I had met his nephew Michael, back in the mid 60s when he and his parents came to stay with us so they could visit the 1964 World's Fair. They were from Youngstown, Ohio. We corresponded after that for a few years but lost contact as college ended and life took over. We reconnected ~ 2015 when my genealogy research began. Michael and I always assumed that it was our grandfathers who were brothers. I had no concrete evidence about Andrzej's siblings: how many? , who? It was all a mystery but I did know his parents' names. All these Bocheneks were immigrating to the US and ending up with or near my grandparents in Passaic, NJ, for a time. Andrzej had immigrated in 1902.

Michael had given me names of some he knew about who went on to Youngstown, Ohio including his grandfather Jan. I learned that Jan and his wife Katherine had 3 children: Michael, Frank and Stella. He died young and Katherine remarried and had another child. Jan also had another brother, but research told me that they had different parents than my grandfather. Still a mystery.

About a year ago, I received a message from a non relative Ancestry.com member who had information about Antoni and Regina Bochenek (my great grandparents) and Andrzej's siblings. Our grandfathers came from the same small village, Giedlarowa in southeastern Poland. They were about the same age.

This member sent me a death notice, from the Polish National Archives, for my great great grandfather Antoni, the date of his marriage to Regina Czaplak and a list of their children with birth dates and even marriage registers for Andrzej's siblings for other relatives. Andrzej had a sister Anna and brother Jozef, both much older than he. Names started falling into place. Michael's grandfather Jan was the son of Jozef, who in fact was Andrzej's brother, so Jan was nephew to Andrzej. I found our link!! It is still hard to track them in the US but I keep trying.

When I received the link to Frank's obituary in Jan 2017, I knew little about him. I think his story is interesting, especially in light of his military career and the 75th anniversary of D Day. The things he did after his military career gave back to the community fully. Michael told me that he even knew or worked for Truman and JFK. I'm guessing chauffeur? He did not live to see the 75th commemoration but...Uncle Frank, God Bless You and thank you for your service. I wish I had the chance to know you.

Tribute To a Vet

Gail Bochenek Demcsak



Photo added by slp

Frank J “Boche” Bochenek

BIRTH 1 Dec 1923
Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio,
USA

DEATH 3 Jan 2017 (aged 93)

BURIAL Calvary Cemetery
Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio,
USA

MEMORIAL ID 174881889 - View Source

Struthers - Frank J. "Boche" Bochenek, 93, died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on January 3, 2017.

Frank was born December 1, 1923 in Youngstown, a son of the late John and Kathleen Tetla Bochenek.

A 1941 graduate of Struthers High School, Frank enlisted in the United States Army in 1943. He proudly served during World War II where he was stationed with the 133rd Combat Engineer Battalion. Frank's platoon was the third wave to storm the beaches at Normandy, and he also fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was an original and lifetime member of the Struthers VFW post #3538.

After the War, Frank was employed at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and later worked as a milkman with Petersburg Creamery and Boche's Dairy in Nebo. In 1962 Frank founded Transit Service Inc., where he served as a bus driver and transported special needs students. Transit Service Inc., still operates in Struthers today. At the same time in the mid to late 60's, Frank served as a bailiff for Federal Judge Frank Battisti in Cleveland. In 1988 he retired as a salesman for Dubois Chemicals.

A sports enthusiast, Frank was very involved in area youth athletics as a coach, manager and transporting youth

A Few of My Wrazen Family Memories - Summers at Sacandaga Lake -Nancy Korycinski Houston, Newport News, VA



Fig.1 Wrazen Family Camp Sacandaga Lake 1934 – Facing lake

Fig. 2 Camp front - date unknown

Hi. I'm Nancy Korycinski Houston and I live in Newport News, Virginia. I am the second child of Peter and Jane Wrazen Korycinski, both from Schenectady, New York. I live in the same house as in my childhood since 1954. I was gifted mom's house when she passed and a year later totally renovated it from foundation up. It's not my momma's house any more. I'm very proud of it.

I'm a lady who loves stories. So, I listen and don't ask a lot of questions. I just store the memory and pull it out, dust it off and put the recollections together. Today, I'm putting it down on paper to share with my Schenectady roots. This story is about my mom, Jane Wrazen Korycinski, born June 24, 1912 in Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine, and her parents, Pawel Wrazen, born January 19, 1886 in Drozanki, Poland, and Wladyslawa (Ida) Korkosz Wrazen, born September 5, 1897 in Drogojowka, Hrubieszow, Poland; married August 21, 1911.

This is a short story of my mom and her parents and how they came to have a summer home, our camp on the Great Sacandaga Lake (Figs. 1 and 2). My grandparents both came from Poland. My grandfather in 1916 and his wife and daughter in 1921. They were Pawel and Wladyslawa (Ida) Wrazen and my earliest memories of them is that they lived on Becker Street in Schenectady, New York and my grandma always made me feel special. When she greeted me or hugged me, she would kiss my eyes and call me her "beautiful eyes". Wow. Amazing how good it feels to share that precious memory alone. She always made delicious sweet breads and was a very good cook.

But the purpose of this story is to tell you what I came to know about how our camp came to be. Both my grandparents worked very hard, were smart and managed money very well. In the 1920s there was a lot of talk about controlling the flooding happening along the Sacandaga River, after the 1913 disastrous flood that caused major damage to towns on the Hudson River below the Sacandaga: Albany, Green Island, Rensselaer, Troy and Watervliet. Flooding in the areas were a big concern. In 1922 the Hudson River Regulating District formed and was given the go ahead to resolve the flooding issue. The

A Few of My Wrazen Family Memories - Summers at Sacandaga Lake -Nancy Korycinski Houston, Newport News, VA

Conklingville Dam was planned, constructed, the valley cleared of the 10 communities living there. The valley was flooded around the completion date of March 1930, creating the Great Sacandaga Lake.

My grandparents saw a great opportunity in this new body of water and, even though it was a financial stretch, it was what they had always wanted, so they went searching for a spot to build their camp on. And it is still a most desired location for a camp as it's actually on the water without having to cross a street to get to it. It took them a while to get it built with working in Schenectady and working mostly on the weekends or whenever they could grab any time at all. They started clearing and building right after they purchased the land. And this was the most important action they took to keep their most prized investment!

It seems there were a lot of "realtors" selling a lot of property along the lake. It was then considered a rough water lake compared to the smaller lakes around that had few waves and were mostly smooth sailing, so to speak. The prices were reasonable then. *And* a few pieces got sold more than once... Sure enough, someone came along and claimed the same exact piece of land as our camp site. My grandparents were so upset. They had to stop building until the dilemma was settled in court. When it came before the judge, both parties had their paperwork in order and showed their claim. The judge was hard pressed to decide which party should get the land. He asked both of them if they had made any improvements to the land. My grandparents had already started clearing the land and actually started building the house. They won the suit because they had already made improvements to the land and started construction! My grandparents and my mom were elated and now more motivated than ever to get the house up.



Fig. 3 Camp stove, outdoor kitchen



Fig. 4 Family L to R: Paternal grandfather Peter Korycinski, father Peter Korycinski, Uncle Al Korycinski, mother Jane Wrazen Korycinski with daughter, grandmother Ida Wrazen

Remember how I said my grandparents were good at managing money? This was depression time (1932) and a lot of their friends were out of work. So, they invited fishing

A Few of My Wrazen Family Memories - Summers at Sacandaga Lake -Nancy Korycinski Houston, Newport News, VA

buddies and friends to help build the camp. My grandma set up an outside kitchen to help feed them all. She had a cold-water line run from the well to the side yard, away from the construction. The kitchen had a sink and a drain pipe to take the run off out to the garden spot. (Conservation at its best!) Hot water was heated on the outside stove for washing and preparing. Cupboards were made to store the dishes. Nothing fancy but serviceable and sturdy. There were two large picnic tables made to seat everybody. And most importantly, she had a cast iron wood burning stove complete with oven, 4 "burners", and a top shelf over the back of the cooktop for seasonings and keeping some things warm. It was "state of the art" at the time. They enclosed it to protect it from prying eyes and to help preserve it over time. (The second one is still there today!) Wow! When I think of all it took to feed a crowd of hungry, hardworking people with such a primitive kitchen I am in awe of grandma's talents. She was an excellent cook having worked as a cook and/or nanny in some of the great houses in Poland on her way to Gdynia to board the Susquehanna that arrived in Boston in 1921.

After the construction was completed with a sun porch with lots of windows overlooking the lake, my grandparents enjoyed the wilderness around them with berry picking, mushroom picking, fishing, gardening and hunting with a little bit of dandelion wine making, along with other types of spirits, thrown in for extra pleasure. The lawn was kept with high grass in a section before reaching the beach. After grandma washed clothes in the lake, she would then lay the laundry on the tall grasses to let the sun and breeze dry them. They always smelled so fresh. The camp was only a summer home as it is now. It was opened after the last chance of a freeze, maybe mid-May, and closed in early September. The house was kept winterized most of the year. It was and is a summer house.

My mom, Jane, the only child of Pawel and Wladyslawa, went to college at Russell Sage College and then to the College of Saint Rose in Albany. She graduated as a registered nurse and then worked at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and became a Surgical Nurse at Welfare Hospital. She met her future husband at the camp. A very handsome Peter Korycinski was brought to the camp by a family friend, Mr. Krosnowski, for a visit. Peter was an engineering student at Georgia School of Technology, aka Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Peter and Jane married in 1942, moved to Hampton, Virginia where Peter had the job at NACA, now NASA at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, VA.

They had three daughters, Jane, Nancy and Anne, who loved visiting the grandparents and camp every summer for a week or two. Grandpa would spend hours upon hours making rock walls to build land marks for his beach and making it wonderful for his granddaughters to have a sandy beach as a wonderful playground for all. It was a most wonderful way to spend a vacation with family, relatives and friends; with swimming, fishing, playing in the sand and picking up rocks and throwing them on the rock walls, seeing who could find the prettiest rock or pick up the heaviest one. It was perfect for docks, swimming, row boats, speed boats, water skiing and camp fires with roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. The granddaughters always loved the camp and today it has passed to them. Each daughter brings their growing families to share the love of our camp. It might be 12 hours away from where we live but we trek it each summer and fall in love with our camp all over again each time. It is the place of our most cherished childhood memories.

A Few of My Wrazen Family Memories - Summers at Sacandaga Lake -Nancy Korycinski Houston, Newport News, VA

Sacandaga Album



Dad Peter Korycinski with daughters



Going fishing with grampa



New motor boat



A Few of My Wrazen Family Memories - Summers at Sacandaga Lake -Nancy Korycinski Houston, Newport News, VA



Stanley Bojanowski, Jane Korycinski and
cousin Phyllis Zych (Budka)



Sunset across the lake

Jane Wrazen Korycinski's daughters, Jane Smith and Nancy Houston are most appreciative of the great efforts our sister, Anne Catron, has made in maintaining the camp for us to enjoy since our mom's passing in November, 2014.

My special appreciation to my sister, Jane Smith, for doing our family's genealogy and gathering all the facts and data I have used in this article.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 16 – Finish the Forties

Martin Byster



You Are My Sunshine¹

[Elizabeth Mitchell](#)

You are my sunshine
My only sunshine
You make me happy
When skies are gray
You'll never know, dear
How much I love you
Please don't take my sunshine away

The other night, dear
As I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke, dear
I was mistaken
And I hung my head and cried

Katarzyna Borek Kornacki (Katie) and Feliks Kornacki both left their native Poland early in the second decade of the 20th century in anticipation of what was to be World War I and immigrated to a growing United States of America, its promise, relatives and friends, to be welcomed by the Statue of Liberty as they sailed into New York harbor.

It is surprising that their names have not been found with those who then entered through Ellis Island. An error; the records elsewhere; were they illegal immigrants? Katie came to relatives^{2,3} at the steam locomotive works in New York, Feliks to friends at the coal mines in Pennsylvania yet both later met informally at the doorstep to the home in which they raised six children⁴, the home they could eventually call their own.

¹ Note: Benjamin Byster my father with Pauline, my mother, brought me into Katie's family in 1941. In the Forties, my father and I would drive out on River Road past the General Electric works to Lock 8, where we watched the waters of the Mohawk River fall over the dam and river barges transit the lock. As we passed the GE, he would point out what was once the employee's club house where early on at GE, he sang in a choral group with other employees. In the days before television, I would sit with him in the living room waiting for a Notre Dame football broadcast on our Zenith radio and he would reminisce to those days, roll up a magazine as a megaphone and sing these words which I never forgot.

² <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2016-04.pdf>, p.23/24

³ <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2017-04.pdf>, Appendices pp.15-18/19

⁴ <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2016-07.pdf>, p.23/26

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Katie registered as an alien in the Forties to be recognized as a citizen by law approved by President Ronald Reagan in 1986.⁵

"I believe in the idea of amnesty for those who have put down roots and lived here, even though some time back they may have entered illegally," --- Ronald Reagan 1984

Feliks earned his citizenship in 1935.

What Else

(As I Remember It)

As the Forties finished, as the decade closed, the mortgage on Katie's home had been paid and her family was secure, provided the taxes for 18 River Street were paid and there was food on the table. Joseph, her only son, together with three of her daughters Pauline, Victoria, and Josephine, had married and were on their own; amongst them were 5 grandchildren Martin, Paul, Cynthia, Katherine and Gregory.

The two youngest daughters Genevieve and Gertrude having completed nursing school had also moved to be on their own.



Left, Fig. 1: Genevieve Kornacki, 1946 graduate of Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, New York, NY



Right, Fig. 2: Gertrude Kornacki 1949, graduate of Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, Amsterdam, NY

Pauline with her husband Ben Byster and children Marty and Kathy lived in the first floor apartment at 18 River Street and continued to live there throughout the next decade.

Victoria with Cindy initially boarded on the second floor with Katie until her husband Joe Zakriski returned from service with the Navy. As I recall, Joe was first employed as a pattern maker in the ALCO (American Locomotive Co.) shops from where he was subsequently laid off yet fortunate to have been employed as a millwright at Schenectady General Electric (GE). They purchased an old house with 4 acres on Glenridge Road in Glenville. Joe renovated the house and as the decade was about to turn Fifty, they moved to establish their household and a family garden. This garden later replaced the garden

⁵ Note: I believe my aunts, Katie's Daughters submitted the required application on Katie's behalf; she subsequently recieved a certificate which is misplaced or missing from available records.

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on Cayugas Island in the Mohawk and brought Katie's family together after attending to potatoes, tomatoes, and sorrel and enjoying the parties on the lawn that followed.

Joseph Kornacki, wife Grace Matthews and son Paul lived a block west on Ingersoll Avenue. Cousins Paul and Marty attended Saint Mary's School until after Kindergarden. The Kornackis later moved to upper Union Street in Niskayuna.



Left, Fig. 3: Paul (2nd row right) and Marty (1st row left) with graduating class from Kindergarden at Saint Mary's School 1946



Right, Fig. 4: Marilyn Ambrozziak, Martin Byster, Carol Dmochowska, Paul Kornacki 1946



Fig. 5: Paul Kornacki and neighbor in backyard at Union Street 1948c.

Josephine with husband Bernard Symanski established their household on University Place near the top of the hill at Eastern Avenue and Saint Mary's Church.



Fig. 6: Josephine Kornacki 1942, graduate Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing

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Josephine after graduation first affiliated with the Psychiatric Westchester Division of New York Hospital and after establishing her residence in Schenectady worked down the hill at the corner across Union Street for Doctor Edmond Colby, later at Bellevue Women's Center, then Saint Clair's Hospital. By 1947 Bernard had left GE and they opened Advanced Bakery on Windsor Terrace. Gregory was born after the Symanskis had moved to Prospect Street at the corner with Windsor Terrace next to the bakery. I remember the white bread for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a chocolate cupcake overflowing its paper liner topped with a thick layer of chocolate frosting freshly delivered to the door for school lunch in the wee hours of the morning. On my mother's demand, I was up and out of bed and then got ready to walk to school.

Katie's sister Maryanna's family⁶ had also reached maturity and when the decade turned 40 the census shows only Maryanna, her husband Adam with sons Chester and Edward left in the household on Alexander Street. Both Chester and Edward were called to military service during WWII. Edward served in the US Navy aboard Subchaser SC 685 here shown (Fig. 7) dockside in the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard.



Fig. 7: Subchaser 685, at Brooklyn Naval Shipyard in 1943⁷



Fig. 8: USS *Dunlap* (DD-384)⁸

⁶ <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/eer-2017-04.pdf>, Appendix A2, p.16/18

⁷ NavSource Online: Submarine Chaser Photo Archive, <http://www.navsource.org/archives/12/150685.htm>

⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dunlap_\(DD-384\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dunlap_(DD-384))

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Frank Rybicki, Machinist Mate First Class (MM1) served aboard USS Dunlap, DD-384 during WWII starting in San Francisco September 1941 thru at least June 1943 during which time he was promoted to Chief Machinist Mate.^{9, 10, 11} The Dunlap had a distinguished career during the war starting when she entered Pearl Harbor the day after the Japanese Attack on December 7th 1941 until she was decommissioned in December 1945.

“On 7 December 1941, during the [attack on Pearl Harbor](#), Dunlap was at sea bound for Pearl Harbor with TF 8 after ferrying planes to [Wake Island](#). She entered Pearl Harbor next day and patrolled in the [Hawaiian](#) area until 11 January 1942 when she sortied with TF 8 for air strikes on the [Marshal Islands](#), returning 5 February. After taking part in the raid on Wake Island of 24 February, she continued to patrol in the Hawaiian area ...” (cont.) ---- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dunlap_\(DD-384\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dunlap_(DD-384))

Chester^{12,13} served with the US Navy Seabees and married Pauline Trzesniewski on October 31st 1942.



Fig. 9: Chester and Pauline Rybicki 1942¹⁴

⁹ https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1143/32662_240970-00012/19728145?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return

¹⁰ https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1143/32662_240970-00291/19732356?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return

¹¹NOTE: In a conversation with Frank in the 50's he was in the Pacific aboard a ship in a test of nuclear weapons. Either officially or anecdotally he was told the flash during the test could set his hair on fire; it didn't. It may have been Operation Crossroads, two [nuclear weapon](#) tests at [Bikini Atoll](#) in 1946. For the first test, *Able* a bomb dropped from the [B-29](#) on July 1, 1946 detonated at 520 feet with less than the expected damage. The second test, *Baker*, exploded under water and there was no significant flash.



¹² The Daily Gazette Obituaries <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailygazette/obituary.aspx?n=chester-j-rybicki&pid=147329557#sthash.xrUjGuJL.dpuf>

¹³ NOTE: In the early 60's Chester worked constructing Titan intercontinental missile sites for the USAF, 556th Strategic Missile Squadron in and around Plattsburgh. I recall that his work was above and below ground.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailygazette/obituary.aspx?pid=173541904#sthash.KIBFNPnk.dpuf>

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I am fortunate to have found among the many pictures collected by Katie's daughters over the years one (Fig. 8) with the decedents of her cousins¹⁵ Anthony and Frank the Dobies¹⁶, two brothers living at 18 River Street with whom Katie boarded initially when she arrived in Schenectady. After experiencing the Mohawk River floods at River Street, they moved first to Mohawk Avenue then again Frank moved to North Street and Anthony to Ingersoll Avenue but never escaping completely from the threat of river floods.

Frank's son, Joseph Dobies, married Sophie A. Dydula at the Holy Trinity Church in Utica, NY on September 2, 1946. Stephanie Urbanik attended as maid of honor. The bridegroom's sister Victoria Dobies, was bridesmaid, his brother Eugene best man, and Anthony's son, William his cousin the usher.



Fig. 10: Sophie Dydula, and Joseph Dobies
William Dobies, usher - Eugene Dobies, best man
Stephanie Urbanik, maid of honor - Victoria Dobies, bridesmaid

Joseph was a veteran of the US Navy with nearly 4 years' service as was Sophie with 2 years in the Navy Nurse Corps. William served in the Quartermaster Corps of the US Army and married Irene Zielinski on July 17, 1949. Eugene married Ethel Sobieski on June 25, 1949¹⁷

An accounting of Katie's extended family¹⁸ thru the Forties in the family records is incomplete. Katie and her daughters reached out to those in Chicago, IL; Douglaston LI, NY; Milwaukee, WI; and Parlin, NJ; but the line of communication is broken, the details

¹⁵ <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2017-04.pdf>, Appendix A3, p.17/19

¹⁶ Note: In the 1930 census the surname for Frank Dobies and family is spelled "Dobiese"

¹⁷ Ancestry.com [New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967](http://www.ancestry.com)

¹⁸ <http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2016-04.pdf>, p.23/24

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sparse. To recover requires considerable effort to include them in this story of Pani Katarzyna Kornacka.

As the Forties closed the first-generation Americans from Schenectady left their nests. Except for Jan Kornacki's son and daughter and Katie's two daughters all in the family who will, marry have married, and together with Katie's 5 grandchildren take their families and a second generation into the Fifties and the story of Katie's extended family from Schenectady is yet to be told.

(NEXT: The Fifties)