

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

July 2021 Vol. 8 No. 2
 Our Eighth Year!

Dear Reader,

We are currently in semi-yearly publication as we continue to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants. Have we gathered all the family stories, captured all the family pictures, remembered all those who were dear to us, connected our mutual heritages? Probably not. So, rather than discontinue our efforts completely, the editors decided to revert to fewer yearly issues in the hopes that you, Reader, might still want to contribute an article or two.

Please share your family history, help pass on the (electronic) word. The next deadlines are January 1st and July 1st 2022. 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/>

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

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Phyllis's Note: I am grateful to William F. (Fred) Hoffman, Editor of "Rodziny," publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, for helping me with and allowing me to publish the following article. (Polish text and document images are found at the end of the article.) I also want to thank my Korycinski cousin Jurate Malinauskiene of Vilnius, Lithuania, for providing the document images from the archive in Vilnius. My realization of and information on the Korycinski family nobility roots came to my understanding only after the previous generations of US family members were deceased. This has come to me, a 2nd generation American, as a big surprise!

Was Jefferson St. the "Plymouth Rock" for Polish immigrants? Did Carole's and Marty's ancestors meet there? Did yours?

EARLY 19TH-CENTURY CERTIFICATION OF NOBILITY IN THE RUSSIAN PARTITION

by William F. Hoffman from a document provided by Phyllis Zych Budka

[From the Winter 2021 issue of *Rodziny*, the quarterly journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America.]

Some months ago, Phyllis Zych Budka contacted me to ask if I could help her with a record she had found on her ancestor, Antoni Koryciński, 5th great-grandfather on her mother, Sophie Korycińska Zych's father Peter's side. Phyllis is a serious researcher and the editor of *Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, which is now in its eighth year of publication. I said I'd gladly take a look, and she sent me the document in question, along with summaries in English and Lithuanian.

It presents the genealogy of a noble Polish family submitted to verify their noble status to Russian authorities. In the early years after Russia seized control of the eastern and central regions of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Tsarist government made some attempts to recognize Polish nobility in hopes the nobles would cooperate with their new masters. As time passed and Poles resisted Russian rule again and again, the Tsarist government responded with pressure against the nobles.

For some background, let me quote an excerpt from my translation of Chapter III of *Genealogia* by Włodzimierz Dworzaczek, considered the first Polish historian to treat genealogy as a legitimate branch of history.

I have already mentioned the genealogies entered in the castle and district records in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the partitions and due to the Tsarist government's order to **verify nobility**. These lists, drawn up before district courts as early as in 1773–1775, appear in the corresponding books up through the fourth decade of the 19th century. Catherine II's "Charter to the Nobility" of 1785 bestowed broad privileges on the noble class, distinguishing it from the rest of society. In each *gubernia* [province of the Russian Empire], books of the nobility began to be kept for entering those who had proved their nobility before pedigree deputations, composed of the marshal of the szlachta and a group of deputies, one from each *powiat* [county]. These books are divided into six parts. The first contained the descendants of persons ennobled by the ruling Russian or other monarchs, as well as families whose proofs of nobility did not date back more than a hundred years. In the second book were found persons or descendants of persons granted hereditary nobility by virtue of possessing Russian military rank. The third book included families ennobled by virtue of possessing civil rank. The fourth contained noble families from abroad who swore allegiance to Russia. Princes, counts, and barons comprised the fifth book. The sixth was filled with nobles who possessed proofs of their privileged standing going back more than a hundred years.

The "Charter" allowed application of fairly liberal methods to the verification of nobles' identity. It was enough if the applicant showed, with the help of testimony from twelve witnesses of unquestioned noble descent, that his father and grandfather "led the life of nobility and remained in noble standing" or held noble offices. The descent deputations examined the proofs, after which they either unanimously or by a two-thirds majority entered the "legitimized" party in the appropriate section of the genealogical book, drawing up papers and genealogies illustrated with coats of arms. If refused, the applicant could appeal the deputation's verdict to the Herald's office in St. Petersburg.

Under Paul I, the heraldry deputations were relieved of the right to give out identity papers. The right was returned to the deputations under Alexander I, but the identification procedure was made much stricter. Under Nicholas I, after the uprising in 1831, a series of far-reaching measures made proving one's nobility far more difficult, the point being to place the enormous throng of minor nobles who lived in small, walled settlements, or paid rent, outside the sphere of *dvoryanstvo* [Russian,

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“nobility”]. Thus before 1836, for instance, acceptable proofs of nobility were ennoblements from monarchs or Sejm charters of ennoblement, as well as documents showing that the direct ancestors of the applicant had owned entire villages before 1795. After 1836, the only acceptable proofs were: szlachta records and papers, certificates of officer’s rank or civil office, Tsarist rescripts, papers showing membership in Russian chapters of orders, and finally, decrees of the Tsar bestowing nobility. All matters concerning verification of nobility from the whole of the so-called “western provinces” of the Tsar’s empire were centralized in the highest instance in the Department of the Herald of the Russian Senate, the archives of which became a mine of invaluable information for the history of local noble families. (This text appears on pages 30–31 of the PDF at <<https://pgsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/DworzaczekIII.pdf>>.)

As I considered the document Phyllis had sent me, I began to think I should share it with our members. I have seen similar documents many times, and I know researchers with roots in the Russian partition may well encounter them. I wanted to reproduce the pages large enough to be legible, then give the Polish text, and finally translate it.

These documents tend to be too long, wordy, and complicated for anyone not fluent in Polish to understand easily. Many terms and phrases, however, show up repeatedly in similar records. A researcher familiar with some of them may be able to extract relevant data and judge whether a record’s contents justify professional translation.

The clerk who wrote this down did not always bother with diacritical marks, and he used *-i-* or *-y-* where modern Polish uses *j*. Most words are recognizable, however.

At top right (cut off here) is written *z Trockiego*, “from the county of Troki” (now Trakai, Lithuania). The document’s title is *73. Wywód Familii Urodzonych Korycińskich*, “Genealogy of the Family of the Noble Korycińskis.” The next line reads *Herbu Topor*, “of the clan shield [or coat of arms] Topór.”

Next comes the date: *Roku Tysiąc Ośmset Dziewiętnastego Miesiąca Grudnia Ośmnastego Dnia* – “In the year 1819, the month of December, the 18th day.”

Here is a line-by-line transcription of the rest of the first page:

At the bottom of the page, it was standard procedure for clerks to write, indented to the right and on a separate line, the next word from the following page. Presumably, this was to establish continuity, so there would be no question that the whole entry was intact. So, at bottom right on page 1 is the first word at the top of page 2, *Powiecie* (county). Similarly, at the bottom right of page 2 is written *Wileńskiej* (of Wilno), the first word on page 3.

What follows is the Polish text of page 1 along with a translation into modern English:

Przed Nami Mikołajem Abramowiczem Pełniącym Urząd Gubernskiego Wileńskim Powiatowym Marszałkiem

Dworu Jego Cesarskiej Mości Kamer Junkrem y Kawalerem Prezydującym – “Before Us, Mikołaj

Abramowicz, holding the office of County Marshal of Wilno province, of the court of His

Imperial Majesty, *Kamer Junker* and knight, presiding...” *Kamer-Junker* (Камер-юнкеръ), a

Russian adaptation of German *Kammerjunker*, was a title for a courtier, roughly equivalent

to “Groom of the Chamber.”

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Oraz Deputatami z Powiatów Gubernii Litewsko-Wileńskiej, do przyjmowania y roztrząsania Wywodów

Szlacheckich obranymi – “as well as deputies of the counties of the province of Lithuania-Wilno, chosen to receive and debate proofs of nobility...”

złożony został Wywod rodowitości Szlacheckiej Familij Urodzonych Korycińskich /:herbu Topór:/ ... – “was

submitted proof of authenticity of the noble family, the well-born Korycińskis of clan Topór.” Note that the noun *herb* is usually translated “coat of arms” in English, but that is a little misleading. A *herb* was the shield of a clan, which could be made up of a single family or many families. Calling it a coat of arms could mislead people into equating *herby* with western European coats of arms, when there were significant differences.

przez który gdy do[wie]dzionym zostało ze Familia Urodzonych Korycińskich od naydawniejszych czasów Szczyq się

prerogatywami Szlachectwa – “by which it was proven that the Family of the well-born Korycińskis have boasted of the prerogatives of nobility since most ancient times....”

z której pochodzi Urodzony Antoni Korycinski Dziad Dopiero wywodzących się wybywszy dobra swoje woywodztwie

Krakowskim przeniosł się do Litwy y za zasługi Rzeczypospolitey Polskiej otrzymał Rangę chorążego, – “from which [family] comes Antoni Koryciński, the grandfather of those proving [their nobility]; he, having left his estate in Kraków province, moved to Lithuania, and there received the rank of *chorąży* [standardbearer] for services to the Polish Commonwealth...”

a Zaślubiwszy Annę Paszkowską powodem udziału posagowego wziął część folwarku Kurmieliszek w Powiecie

[Page 2] *Trockim położonego, Dziedzicząc iakowy maiątek* – “and, having married Anna Paszkowska, took part of the manorial farmstead of Kurmieliski [Kermeliškės], located in the county of Troki, as part of the dowry, and established it as property his heirs could inherit...”

spłodził Syna Ignacego, z którego zrodzoni zostali Wincenty już nieżyjący oraz Dominik y Piotr Korycinscy, – “[he]

begot a son, Ignacy, of whom were born Wincenty Koryciński, deceased, and Dominik and Piotr Koryciński...”

o czym naydokładniej przekonaly dwa Swiadectwa – “as two certificates most convincingly demonstrate...”

Jedno Marszałka Trockiego Powiatu y dwudziestu z najznakomitszych Powiatu pierwszych urzędnikow wydane

Tysiąc Ośmset Dziewiętnastego Listopada dwudziestego dziewiętego Dnia – “One from the Marshal of Troki county and twenty of the most renowned first officials of the county, issued on 29 November 1819...”

oraz drugie Swiadectwo Jana Leszczyńskiego Komornika Sądowego tegoż Powiatu wydane Roku 1819 Xbra 13 Dnia

– “as well as a second certificate from Jan Leszczyński, Court Bailiff of the same county, issued 13 December 1819...”

a do tego Składane były Metriki chrzestne Dominika 1799 7bra 1. Dnia y Piotra 1802 Junij 28 Dnia datowane a 1816

Augusta 6 Dnia z ksiąg Kościoła Parafialnego Staro Trockiego przez Xiędza vice Proboszcza Andrzeja Czerskiego wydane – “and also submitted were baptismal certificates for Dominik, dated 1 September

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1799, and Piotr, [dated] 6 August 1816, issued from the registers of the parish church of Stare Troki [Senieji Trakai] by Rev. Andrzej Czernski, assistant pastor...”

na Fundamencie przeto takowych zaprodukowanych dowodow rodowitość Szlachetną Familii Urodzonych Korycińskich probuiących – “on the basis of such documents produced as proof of authenticity of the noble family of the well-born Korycińskis...”

My Marszałek Gubernskiego zastępca y Deputaci Powiatowi Stosownie do przepisow w Dyplomacie pod Rokiem 1785 Naytaskawiey Szlachcie nadanym wyrazonych niemniej tez pilnując się prawideł w Ukazach z Rządzącego Senatu Rządowi Gubernskiemu Litowskiemu przesłanych Familii Urodzonych a mianowicie wywodzących się

Jako to Dominika y Piotra Synow Ignacego Korycińskich za Rodowitą y Starożytną Szlachtę Polską Uznaemy – “We, the provincial vice-marshal and county deputies, in accordance with the statutes and set forth in the 1785 charter issued to the Illustrious Nobles, as well as following the rules in the decrees of the Ruling Senate sent to the government of the province of Lithuania, do recognize the well-born family, namely, Dominik and Piotr, sons of Ignacy Koryciński, as authentic and ancient Polish nobility...”

Ogłaszamy y Onych do Księgi Szlachty Gubernia Litewsko-Wileńskiej [Page 3] *Klasy pierwszej na Mocy Ukazu 1801 Maja 5 nastalego Zapisuemy. Działo się na Sesyi Deputacyi Wywoodey Szlacheckiej Gubernii Litewsko-Wileńskiej w Wilnie.* – “We announce this and enroll them in the book of nobles, first class, of the province of Lithuania-Wilno, by virtue of the decree issued 5 May 1801. This was done at the meeting of the Deputation for Establishing Nobility of the Province of Lithuania-Wilno in Wilno.”

Mikołaj Abramowicz | Andrzej Podbereski Deputat Brasławski | Alojzy Sławiński, Deputat Oszmiański – [Signed] *Mikołaj Abramowicz | Andrzej Podbereski, deputy from Brasław | Alojzy Sławiński, deputy from Ashmiany* [now in Belarus].

An illegible signature follows, along with a notation that appears to say *Czytano*, “Read,” with the signature of someone named Baranowicz.

If you would like to study more examples of similar documents issued by the same marshal, you can see one here:

<<https://tinyurl.com/yxskhdwm>>

And this one, from the Genealodzy.pl forum, deals with a branch of the Czajkowski family related to the famed composer Tchaikovsky:

<<https://genealodzy.pl/PNphpBB2-printview-t-89838-start-15.phtml>>

Wordy as these documents are, you can see that being familiar with some of the phrases and terms might help you decipher some of the information, which can be really valuable in your research.

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checkich obranymi złożony został Wywod rodowitości
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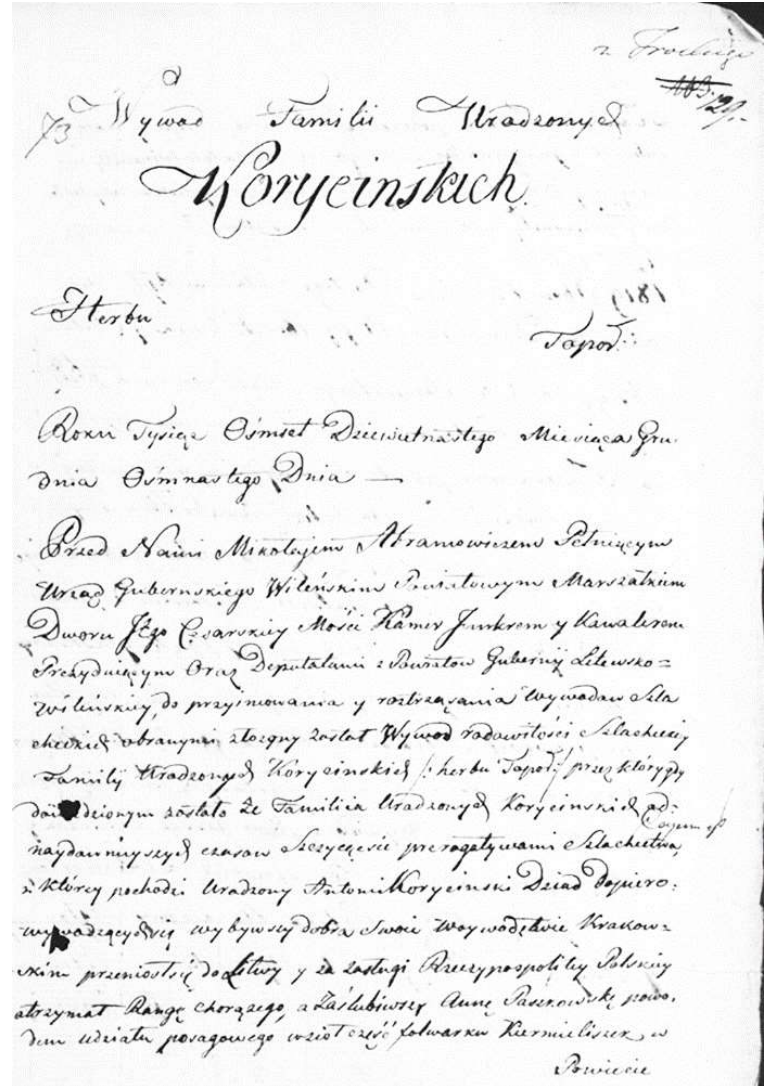


Figure 1 – Page one. All photos used courtesy of Phyllis Zych Budka.

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Lesz[-]

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dowodow rodowitość Szlachetną Familii Urodzonych
Korycińskich probujących My Marszałek Gubernskiego
zastępca w Deputaci Powiatowi Stosownie do przepi-
sow i Dyplomacie pod Rokiem 1785 Naytaskawiey
Szlachcie nadanym wyrazonych niemniej tez pilnu-
jąc się prawideł w Ukazach z Rządzącego Senatu Rządowi
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Figure 2 – The second page.

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a

Wileński Klasz pierwszy na mocy Ukazu 1801
Maja 5 następnego Zapisujemy. Działo się na Sesi
Deputacy Wywodowej Szlacheckiej Gubernii
Litewsko-
Wileńskiej w Wilnie.

Mikołaj Abramowicz
Andrzej Podbereski Deputat Brastawski
Aloizy Sławiński, Deputat Oszmiański

[Illegible Signature]

Read [?] Baranowicz

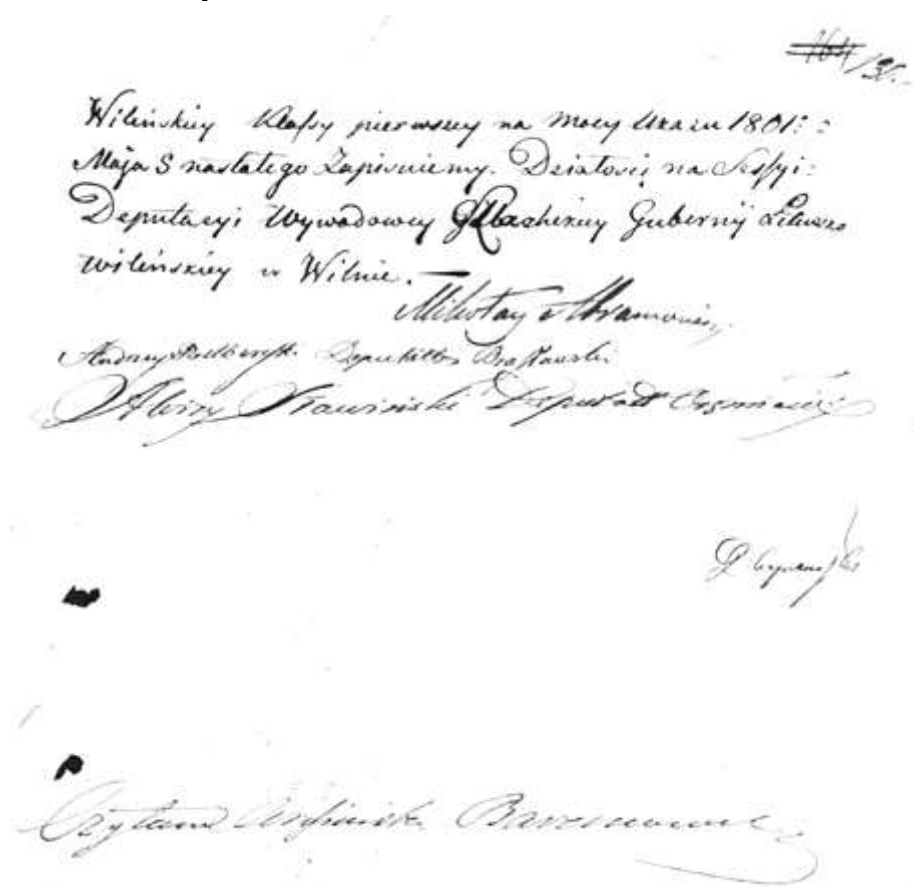


Figure 3 – The final page (with some blank spaces deleted).

CONNECTION BETWEEN HEGEWISCH ILLINOIS AND SCHENECTADY NY Carole McCarthy

In researching my Schenectady Tys ancestors, who immigrated from Witkowice, Podkarparkie, located in southeastern Poland, I have come to learn that many of these relations have a connection not only with Schenectady but also with Hegewisch, Chicago, Illinois. To understand this relationship, I charted the people and the years in Schenectady and Hegewisch. I have attached that spreadsheet (Fig. 3) for your purview.

As you can see from the chart, the earliest relative, Jan Slowik, came to Schenectady in 1903. It is interesting to note that all these people in Schenectady lived at 19 Jefferson Street, at various times, which was located just across the Erie Canal from ALCO. The 19 Jefferson building is no longer there and where it stood is now a parking lot. Figure 1 is a Google web capture of 19 Jefferson Street as it looks today. Figure 2 is a picture of the early 1900s map showing 19 Jefferson Street marked by arrow.



Figure 1 Google capture of 19 Jefferson St., Schenectady, NY, as it appears today.

**CONNECTION BETWEEN HEGEWISCH ILLINOIS AND
SCHENECTADY NY
Carole McCarthy**



Figure 2 early 1900s map showing 19 Jefferson Street marked with arrow.

The 1910 Federal census shows Antoni Zeglen living at 19 Jefferson with his wife and children. It says he immigrated from Austria-Poland in 1879. Witkowice was part of Austria-Poland at that time. The census only list one boarder living there at that time and he was an Italian, even though my grandfather, Joseph Tys, lived there according to the ships manifest in 1910. Another note of interest, at 19 Jefferson Street, Antoni Zeglen not only lived there but owned a saloon and was the saloon keeper at that same address. There were about 17 other saloons on Jefferson Street at that time. That may explain why my relatives lived there!

As you can see by the map inset in Fig. 2, 19 Jefferson Street is only a short walk over the bridge that spans the Erie Canal, to get to their place of employment, ALCO. This was similar to their place of employment at Western Steel and Car Foundry in Hegewisch, which was just a short walk across the railroad yard from their residence at 13241 Carondolet Ave. I am told that there were many saloons along that walkway also!

**CONNECTION BETWEEN HEGEWISCH ILLINOIS AND
SCHENECTADY NY
Carole McCarthy**

Polish Born in Witkowice, Radomyśl nad Sanem, Podkarpackie, Poland						
Name	Year(s) of Residence in Hegewisch	Address in Hegewisch	COMMENTS	Year(s) of Residence in Schenectady	Address in Schenectady	COMMENTS
Wojciech Słowik	Dec. 1905	13241 Carondolet	to brother Jan Słowik			
Jan Słowik	1904-1908, /Feb 1909	13241/13259 Carondolet	to brother Jozef Słowik	April 1903-1904	19 Jefferson St.	to friend, Wawryniec Rybak
Józef Słowik	1903-1905	13241 Carondolet	to brother in law			
Joseph Tys	1906-1908	13241 Carondolet	to acquaintance Jan Słowik	1910-1964	19 Jefferson St.	to Jan Rybak
Jan Rybak				Dec. 1905	209 Front St.	Rybak
Adam Rybak	Dec. 1905	13242 Carondolet	to brother in law Jan Słowik			
Jozef Bednarz	Dec. 1905	13243 Carondolet	to brother in law Jan Słowik			
Ludwik Bartochowski	Feb. 1909	13259 Carondolet	to brother in law Jan Słowik			
Franciszek Zboch	1906/1908-1912	13241 Carondolet	to friend Jan Słowik	1913	19 Jefferson St.	to brother Stefan Zboch
Józef Janowski	1923-1959	13107 S. Baltimore Ave	came with family	1903-1922	19 Jefferson St./Nott St.	to Marcin Rybak, cousin

Fig. 3 Schenectady Tys ancestors with connections to Schenectady but also Hegewisch, Chicago, Illinois.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

FRIDAY, 02/26/1892 – THURSDAY, 03/04/1993

Gilded Age 1877-1892^{1,2}

In the United States, the Gilded Age was an era of rapid economic growth

1887 Feliks Kornacki, my grandfather (Dziadek) was born

1892 Katarzyna Borek, my grandmother (Babcia) was born

1894 Nicholas II becomes Czar of Russia and titular King of Poland

In Schenectady

1880 Schenectady enters its Golden Era³

1881 Charles Ernst purchased property for 18 River Street

1886 Thomas Edison Opened the Edison Machine Works.

1889 Edison Hotel opened on Wall Street

1892 Saint Mary's Church was founded,

1892 General Electric Company incorporated

1892 Charles Ernst built his house at 18 River Street

Katie, Katarzyna Kornacka, my grandmother (Babcia) opened her eyes to the world on a Friday, the 26th of February, 1892 in Poland at nearly the end of a historical era labeled Poland's "Modern Age" which began with a constitution 101 years earlier in 1791 which was in the world second only to the US Constitution accepted finally in 1790 for the United States by all its 13 original colonies.

Strong conservative opposition in Poland to the constitution with the help of Russian Empress Catherine brought Russia to invade and divide Poland a second time in 1793 between Russia and Prussia. Despite a revolution against Russia led by Kosciuszko and then, with Napoleon, the invasion of Russia, struggles of the Polish people for its independence reached the Congress of Vienna in 1815 which established the Kingdom of Poland where Katie would spend the last 17 Of her first 19 years in Parlin, parish of Lutocin,⁴ under the Russian Czar Nicholas II, the titular King of Poland

¹ Some historians find events associated with a Gilded Age in the Progressive Era both of which came to an end with the start of World War I

² Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletters: Apr 2015 Vol. 2 No.2, Part 1

³ 1976; Hart, Larry; Schenectady's Golden Era 1880-1930

⁴ Lutocin is a village in Żuromin County, Masovian Voivodeship, in east-central Poland the seat the administrative district Gmina Lutocin 120 km (75 mi) north-west of Warsaw.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

Feliks Kornacki, my grandfather (Dziadek) was born in the parish of Młodzieszyn in the Russian part of Poland on Wednesday, the 23rd of March, 1887. He worked for the German railroads in Poland. Drafted into the army, he served with the 9th Siberian Regiment of the Russian Army which provided security for Czar Nicholas II at the Czar's estate near Warsaw. He took leave of the army in 1911.

The City of Schenectady was growing. It added the third ward along the Mohawk River in 1832 which included farm land along the southern bank of the Mohawk River east of the city for growing which grew broom corn. Growing the corn and making the brooms reached its peak during the Civil War, on the wane in 1880, and only remnants of this industry remained in first decade of the 20th century.

Progressive Era 1896-1916⁵

1909-13 William Howard Taft, Pres.

1913-21 Woodrow Wilson Pres.

In Schenectady

1899 Union Street School opened

1901 American Locomotive Company incorporated

1903 Schenectady High School North Bldg. at Nott Terrace completed

1906 Carl Company opened

1908 New railroad station opened

1911 City Mayor George Lunn purchases land for Riverside and four other parks

1911 Schenectady High School South Bldg. at Not Terrace completed

1915 Erie Canal operations closed

1916 Barge Canal operations began

Katie left Poland in 1911 and arrived at Jefferson Street to be with her older sister and two cousins (Dobies) who had already established their families in a prosperous and growing Schenectady. She left behind her mother Apolonia (Dobies) and father Adam Borek, 3 sisters: Anna Lewandowski with Josef and 3 sons, Franczyska Adranowicz with Jan, 1 daughter and 4 sons, Stanislaw Zaleski with husband⁶, 1 daughter and 9 sons and one younger brother Stanislaw with Antonina and 3 daughters.

⁵ Project...Roots Newsletters: Jul 2015 Vol.2 No. 3 Part 2; Oct 2015 Vol. 2 No.4 Part 3; Apr 2016 Vol. 3, No. 2; Part 4; Jul 2016 Vol.3 No.3 Part 5

⁶ Unable to determine Stanislaw's husband's first name.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

About 1911, Feliks immigrated to the US, initially to the coalfields of Pennsylvania at the urging of a young family he knew, who had settled there. He decided to leave the coal mines behind and came to Jefferson Street, in Schenectady where later, two streets away, he met Katie who was boarding with her cousins' families on 18 River Street⁷. He left behind his mother Teofila Wrzesinska, father Andrzej Kornacki, 4 brothers Antoni, Piotr, Josef, and Jan who later immigrated to Schenectady, married Anna Buczinska and raised a son and daughter.

The American Locomotive Company incorporated the Schenectady Locomotive Works and in 1901 expanded north to between the Erie Canal and the Mohawk River with employment opportunities which give reason why Katie's sister Marianna, her husband Adam, her father Adam and Feliks came to Schenectady. Marianna and her father came in the middle of the first decade. Her father later returned to Poland to arrange for Katie to join her sister in America. Truly remarkable is how an awareness of such employment opportunities spread so far and wide so quickly to reach the Polish and Italian immigrants who came and settled near where they were employed.

Katie and Feliks were married in Saint Mary's Church on Eastern Avenue on Saturday June 7th, 1913, Reverend Alexander Kowalski officiating, witnesses Angelo Bielak and Bronislawa Cinkiewicz.

They begin their family at 22 River Street closer to the Mohawk River, two doors down from Charles Ernst's house, where they raise their family, and lived for the rest of their lives.

River Street is in the river flood plain. The risk of flooding today is near nil with respect to the earlier floods. Over the years since the late 30s an elevated levy was constructed along the river bank between the elevated railroad up-stream of River Street and Freeman's Bridge down-stream. In the first three decades of the twentieth century however there were five devastating floods⁸.

- (1) 232.90 ft on 03/28/1914
- (2) 229.20 ft on 03/19/1936
- (3) 228.90 ft on 03/28/1913
- (4) 227.70 ft on 04/02/1916
- (5) 227.70 ft on 03/15/1929

Flood water on River Street in '14 reached to nearly the ceiling of the first floor, in '36 halfway up the windows, in '13 above the window sills, and in '16 and '29 near the window sills.

⁷ Ibid. Part 5; Pani Katarzyna Kornacka; 9/26/2016

⁸ Ibid.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

They had six children, 5 daughters and 1 son. My mother Apolonia (Pauline), their first child, is born in 1914 at 22 River Street on April 12 just two weeks after the all time record breaking flood and within a year of the the 3rd highest recorded flood in 1913. Their only son Joseph is born April 6th 1916 just 4 days after the 4th highest flood in 1916. Some time after the second flood they moved in as tenants in Charles Ernst's house at #18.

Katie, as a Maid of Honor



Katie & Feliks, Wife & Spouse



Feliks, 9th Siberian Regiment



1901 American Locomotive Co. Schenectady Locomotive Works Expansion

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

World War I 1917-1919⁹

1913-21 Woodrow Wilson Pres.

1917 US Congress at the request of President Woodrow Wilson declares war on Germany

1917 Selective Service Act authorizes draft in raising a national army

In Schenectady

Feliks registered for the draft and received a temporary exemption as employed in work essential to the war effort. In 1918 Feliks joined the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Local 202 of Schenectady classified as a “Reamer” working for the American Locomotive Company. Josephine is born on March 19th 1919 at 18 River Street.

Roaring Twenties 1920-1929¹⁰

1920 Republic of Poland issues Twenty Year 6% US Dollar Gold Bonds

1921-23 Warren G. Harding Pres.

1923-29 Calvin Coolidge Pres.

In Schenectady

1925 Western Gateway Bridge, Schenectady to Scotia over the Mohawk River opened

1925 Erie Boulevard formally opened

1927 Dr. Ernst F. Alexanderson demonstrates home television

The war years are good times. Katie and Feliks purchase Republic of Poland bonds in 1920. Victoria is born on June 19th 1921, and Genevieve on June 22nd 1922. Katie and Feliks keep a garden on the island in the Mohawk nearest Scotia. The Western Gateway Bridge is under construction in 1923 and they witness the debris and failed remnants in the aftermath of the catastrophic collapse¹¹ of the final section crossing to Scotia. Katie and Feliks take a 5-year balloon mortgage at 6% from a neighbor and buy Charles Ernst’s house in 1925 for \$2300.

Great Depression 1929-1941

1929-33 Herbert Hoover Pres.

1933-44 Franklin D. Roosevelt Pres.

1935 Social Security Act was signed into law by President Roosevelt

1940 Alien Registration Act (Smith Act)

⁹ Project...Roots Newsletters: Oct 2016 Vol.3 No.4 Part 6; Jan 2017 Vol.4 No.1 Part 7; Apr 2017 Vol. 4 No. 2; Part 8; Jul 2017 Vol.4 No.3 Part 9

¹⁰ Ibid. Oct 2017 Vol. 4 No. 4; Part 10

¹¹ 1976; Hart, p.262

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Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

In Schenectady

1931 Rexford Park closed

1939 Trolley Bridge near Rexford Park closed¹²

The Great Depression brings hard times and they are unable to make timely interest payments on their mortgage. Through the generosity of their neighbor, the term of the loan is extended to 20 years. Gertrude is born on March 4th 1929. After attending classes at Nott Terrace High School, Feliks receives his Certificate of Citizenship on May 13th 1935. He received his Social Security Card on December 22nd 1936. The 1940 Smith Act requires all non-citizen adult residents to register with the federal government. Katie was registered; however, the registration is not dated and may have been at a much later date.

World War II 1941-1945¹³

1933-45 Franklin D. Roosevelt Pres.

In Schenectady

1942 First blackout for the war

1942 The American Locomotive Co. begins production of M-4 Gen. Sherman and M-36 Sluggers

Feliks is issued an identification card on May 3rd 1943 by the Captain of the Port of New York which saying he is employed by the American Locomotive Co. in Schenectady as a "Reamer", age 56, weight 200, height 5' 10".

1945-1964

Post War Era 1945-1964^{14, 15}

1945-53 Harry S. Truman Pres.

1953-61 Dwight D. Eisenhower Pres.

1961-63 John F. Kenned Pres.

In Schenectady

1955 American Locomotive Co. Renamed ALCO Products

1959 Schenectady Sesquicentennial Celebration

¹² 1976; Hart; p.136

¹³ Project...Roots Newsletters: Jan 2018 Vol. 5 No. 1 Part 11; [Apr 2018 Vol. 5 No. 2] Part 12; Jul 2018 Vol. 5 No. 3 Part 13; [Oct 2018 Vol. 5 No.4 Part 14] Apr 2019 Vol. 6 No. 2; Part 15; Jul 2019 Vol. 6 No. 3 Part 16; Oct 2019 Vol. 6, No. 4 Part 17

¹⁴ Ibid. Oct 2019 Vol. 6 No. 4 Part 17; Oct 2020 Vol. 7 No. 4 Part 18;

¹⁵ Ibid. Oct 2021 Vol. 8 No. 1 Part 19

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Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

Feliks Kornacki became entitled to “Old-Age Insurance Benefits” under Title II of the Social Security Act payable monthly at \$85 beginning December 1952. On February 26th 1954, at 62 years of age, Feliks died of cerebral embolism. Katie was entitled to “widow” benefits and received her own Social Security number effective November 1956, monthly payments at \$73.90

1964-1980

Civil Rights Era

1978-2005 Pope St. John Paul II, Karol Józef Wojtyła, bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, first from a Slavic country

1963-69 Lyndon B. Johnson Pres.

1965 Medicare is the federal health insurance program created for people ages 65 and over

1969-1974 Richard Nixon Pres

1974-77 Gerald Ford Pres.

1977-81 Jimmy Carter Pres.

In Schenectady

1968 ALCO Co. closed

1973 Barney's and Wallace's department stores closed

1974 Western Gateway Bridge demolished

1776 City of Schenectady Bicentennial Celebration

Katie turned 65 in 1957, 8 years before Medicare become law; Feliks was 65 in 1952, 13 years before. Katie said when she was in Poland people said it would be the end of the world were there to be a Polish Pope. Wallace's and Barney's on State Street were two department stores where I recall Katie to have shopped.

1980-1991

Reagan Era

1981-89 Ronald Reagan Pres.

1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act

1989-93 George H.W. Bush Pres.

In Schenectady

The Immigration Reform and Control Act signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 6, 1986 also legalized undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the country prior

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

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to January 1, 1982. Katie's daughters submitted a request to be legalized on behalf of Katie and President Reagan approved her legal status.

1991-1993

Post Cold War Era

1993-2001 Bill Clinton Pres

In Schenectady

Obituary: Passed, on Thursday, March 4th 1993, Katherine Borek Kornacki of 18 River Street: wife of the late Feliks Kornacki, mother of Mrs. Pauline Byster of Schenectady, NY; Mrs. Josephine Szymanski of Burlington, VT; Mrs. Victoria Zakriski of Scotia, NY; the late Joseph Kornacki and Genevieve Reed; also 22 grandchildren¹⁶ and 17 great-grandchildren. Funeral, Monday morning, Kazyaka Funeral Home 819 Eastern Avenue at 8:30 am then a Christian Burial, to Mass Saint Mary's Church at 9:00 and Christian Burial at Saint Mary's Cemetery on McClellan Street. Members of the Holy Rosary Society are requested to meet at the funeral home Sunday evening at 6:30 pm.

¹⁶ PROJECT TO DISCOVER SCHENECTADY EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS NEWSLETTER January 2020 Vol. 7 No. 1

Note: 1940 Listing of residents 18 River St. Apr 2019 Vol. 6 No. 2; Part 15

Note: 1940 Listing of Katie's and Feliks' extended family in Schenectady Jan 2018 Vol. 5 No. 1; Part 11

Note: 1950 Listing of Katie's and Feliks' immediate family in ...Newsletter Oct 2019 Vol. 6 No. 4; Part 17 is incomplete. The updated listing is attached.

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Part 21- EPILOGUE

Martin Byster

ATTACHMENT

Descendants of Pani Katarzyna Kornacka

at the

Close of the Nineteen Fifties

<u>Gertrude and Robert Barry</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Barry	Gertrude	1929
	Robert	1929
	Pamela	1950
	Mark	1951
	Kathleen	1952
	Barbara	1954
	Christopher	1957
	Bridget	1962
	Paula	1963

<u>Pauline and Benjamin Byster</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Byster	Pauline	1912
	Benjamin	1912
	Martin	1941
	Katherine	1949

<u>Joseph and Grace Kornacki</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Kornacki	Joseph	1916
	Grace	unkn
	Paul	1942
	Donald	1950

<u>Genevieve and Donald Reed</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Reed	Genevieve	1922
	Donald	1925
	Donald E.	1952
	Martha A.	1953
	Stephanie B.	1957
	Elizabeth V.	1968
	Richard T.	1960
	David F.	1962

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA

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<u>Josephine and Bernard Symanski</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Symanski	Josephine	1919
	Bernard	unkn
	Gregory	1949
	Judith (Jude)	1952

<u>Joseph and Victoria Zakriski</u>		
SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DOB
Zakriski	Joseph	1915
	Victoria	1921
	Cynthia	1944
	Timothy	1951
	Susan	1953
	Christine	1957

To be continued; as Part 20 in a later edition of the Newsletter.