

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

January 2016 Vol. 3 No. 1

Happy New Year! Our objective is to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories, and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants.

You are receiving 2 files in 2 separate e-mails with this newsletter. Part 2 is shared by Barbara Pyzanowski Bentley. Her family's story is presented in an elegant, interesting and artistic format.

We need each of you to share family history, help pass the (electronic) word. The next deadline is April 1st 2016, then July 1st. 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/>

Polish American Historical Association Link (PAHA)

Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, webmaster of the PAHA website, added a link to our Project Newsletter archive on the "Schenectady Digital History Archive."

From the PAHA Home Page at

<http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/>

Click on "Resources" then "Lists of Resources."

Thank you, Maja!

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/>

Facebook: Schenectady 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.

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Hunting Mushrooms

Robert Yunick, Schenectady, New York

One hundred or more years ago, as immigrants from Eastern Europe came to America with few possessions, but with high hopes of freedom and opportunity, they brought with them their cultural and religious beliefs which were woven into the strengthening fabric of an emerging nation, the United States of America.

My forbears came from Lithuania where they lived close to the land; they foraged and gathered back in “the old country” as they exclaimed to me as a child, as a matter of necessity. One of their traditions was to pick mushrooms in the local forests where these fungi grew. My maternal grandparent immigrants (Kazimira O. [1878-1958] and Juozas J. Remaika [1878-1940]) passed on this tradition to their children, who were parents as well as my aunts and uncles, and they in turn passed on this tradition to “us kids” in the 1940s and ‘50s ... we became mushroom hunters in the Schenectady region, far distant from Lithuania, but deeply imbued in the tradition.

Now at age 80, and still a mushroom hunter, it is a pleasure to look back and reflect upon what “us kids” enjoyed as part of an upbringing in an extended family as we participated in some of these traditions.

The mushroom we sought was the prized king bolete known scientifically as *Boletus edulis* which occurs both in the U. S. and Europe. In Lithuanian it was called “baravykas” or in the plural as I heard often as a child “baravykai” (in Polish it was “borowik” in the singular, “borowiki” in the plural). Mushrooms in general were referred to in Lithuanian as “grybas” as singular or “grybai” plural, a term I heard also many times. Another mushroom sought after was the “red top,” known as “raudonvirsis” in Lithuanian and scientifically as *Leccium aurantiacum*.

Our favored hunting ground was in the Town of Edinburg near what was then known as Sacandaga Reservoir, now Great Sacandaga Lake. I have no clue how this sacred ground was found, but it produced abundantly some years, less so others. Typically we foraged on Saturdays, or Sundays after church; they were family events involving members of the Dougall, Malin, Remeika, and Yunick families as I recall; perhaps others were included. We also hunted mushrooms in forests near the Holy Cross Church Cemetery on Dunnsville Road in the Town of Rotterdam.

My father, on some of these events, sang a song in Lithuanian from his homeland about going out mushroom hunting. I am not sure this is the song he sang, but the following song in Lithuanian “Sekmadienis Ryteli Isejau Grybauti” translates to “Sunday morning I went mushroom hunting.”

I remember my father recalling one such Sunday outing with numerous people attending how the group was lost in the woods. *Losing one's direction or bearings in the woods*

Hunting Mushrooms

Robert Yunick, Schenectady, New York

was easy to do as people roamed about looking only at the ground ahead, here then there, and yet again elsewhere, only to where the next group of mushrooms graced the forest floor. It was an intense hunt. On that occasion, as people circled the same area again and again seeking a way back to their car, following Grand Ma Malin's imposing advice, they finally convinced her that a different route was needed, before finally finding their way back to the car....she was a stirring force within her family.

As kids on these mushroom hunts we scurried about the forest to find as many boletes as we could to elicit elder praise. Our parents/aunts/uncles scurried about also, the size of their harvest a mark of accomplishment. Some years we found few, other years many, or even a super abundance. I recall one very wet September many, many years ago when mushrooms grew profusely and my Uncle John Remeika came home one afternoon with two bushels full of boletes...the greatest find I ever observed.

Years later, Uncle John took me on mushroom hunts to Luther Forest, Town of Malta, on the way to his camp at Saratoga Lake. These occurred in October/November after killing frosts when these mushrooms appeared as humps under the pine needle carpet of the forest. When picked, they needed to be peeled of their slimy cap to remove the attached pine needles...I do not recall the name for this mushroom, but we enjoyed them nevertheless. Today, the portion of Luther forest where we picked is solid residential houses having popped up like mushrooms.

Such an event as Uncle John's find of two bushels of boletes referred to above caused a family stir of joy and necessity about how to handle and store this abundance. Not to worry, these people knew what to do. There were late hours in the kitchen cleaning and preserving this treasure any time they were abundant. The process lasted sometimes for days. Some mushrooms were strung on string and dried either in the oven or hung over the stove or any other warm dry place, sometimes a warm attic. My mother cooked some which she canned in pint or quart mason jars, while others she pickled in those same jars, later to be enjoyed during the cold blasts of winter at a fine dinner.

The dried mushrooms occupied a special place in our families' Catholic tradition. In Lithuania Christmas Eve, known as "Kucios" was a blend of an ancient pagan tradition which celebrated the longest night of the year until 1387 when Lithuania adopted the Catholic tradition. In our family, for many years we gathered for Christmas Eve dinner at Aunt Helen's house where Grandma Remeika lived. It was a meatless meal of fried haddock or similar fish, pickled herring and other delicious offerings, including mushroom soup made from the dried boletes. It was a soup of clear brown broth, perhaps onion and of course slices of the reconstituted boletes, evoking the flavor and smell of the forest of their origin.

Hunting Mushrooms

Robert Yunick, Schenectady, New York

If you had been one of the hunters of these prized mushrooms, it evoked your joy doing so, thus contributing to this family gathering. And if even you had not, it recalled other years of your experience in the woods enjoying this family tradition hunting them.

Fast forward to 2015 and the Internet: a concept far, far beyond the wildest dreams of these immigrants who struggled to meet life's basic needs. On eBay, one may buy boletes from U. S., Europe or Chile without venturing into the woods to enjoy picking them. King boletes can be obtained for \$120 for 20 oz. down to \$48 for 8 oz.!! Dried ones from Europe are \$6.32 per oz., or \$23.21 per lb., all plus shipping and probable sales tax, without setting foot in the quiet forest to enjoy harvesting them!

We live in a strangely evolved world. One hundred years ago our ancestors had time and no money; today, many people have money and no time to enjoy the quest for these elusive mushrooms from our peaceful, quiet forests; and to enjoy them accordingly after the hunt.

Our foraging years ago did not stop at mushrooms. We gathered butternuts with their sticky yellowish-green husks in September to be dried in the attic spread on newspaper on the floor. The husk shriveled to a brown skin which needed to be removed in order to expose the nuts to crack them in a vise for their delicate nut meats. These prized nutmeats were included in Christmas holiday cookies adding their unique flavor replacing walnuts.

We ventured also into sphagnum bogs in Luther Forest to pick blue berries, within earshot of the public address system and screeching sound of rocket engine test firings of the GE Rocket Motor Test Site at Malta in the 1950s. There, we picked blue berries from high-bush plants, not those back-breaking low-bush plants only a foot or two off the ground.

"Us kids" were each assigned an empty two-pound honey can (nothing went to waste) hung with string over our neck, which we were expected to fill by day's end to add to the pickings of our elders in order to fill each of the two-gallon pails my father and an Uncle Steve Dougall carried out to the car. I hated the tedium of picking, but loved the result. It taught me a lesson...a lesson sadly missing in some of today's youth.

These berries led to many dishes of fresh blue berries with milk or cream, blue berry pancakes, blue berry pies baked by my mother as well as canned blue berries again in those mason jars for winter. Some of the canned berries were used as a syrup over vanilla ice cream as well as for making winter blue berry pies reminding us of the August days in the bog where we picked them.

Foraging was a part of the life of an emerging America, now sadly diminished in our area due to less suitable habitat caused by expanding residential/commercial development; as well as an economic shift in importance of individuals personally relying directly on themselves and their environment, choosing others to supply their needs.

I feel so pleased to have bridged this transition. And, I hope this writing triggers the recall of many pleasant memories from your past within your families as you read this.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge valuable assistance from Phyllis Budka who lent me a book on Lithuanian history which I have called upon here; but more importantly who introduced me via email to her Lithuanian cousin, Juarte Malinauskiene, who answered

Hunting Mushrooms

Robert Yunick, Schenectady, New York

my repeated questions the answers to which contributed greatly to the content of this writing. Many thanks to both of you ladies.

Mushrooming

Marge Norris Brophy, Lexington, South Carolina

I love mushrooms and not just because they taste good. Mushrooms remind me of those late summer/early fall days when I would go mushroom picking with my mother (Wanda Norris) and my Babcia (Victoria Korycinski). Much of my memory as far as specific times and places has faded, but I have a flashback to those days sometimes when I pick up a carton of mushrooms in the market. Sadly, it's not like picking mushrooms out in the woods.

Most of the time, it would be a Saturday morning when my father would have gone to work. We had only one car so Mom would take Dad to work, come home and get me, and sometimes my brother. Sometimes, it would be on a school holiday. We would head to my Babcia's house on Forest Road for an 8 AM pickup. Babcia would come out of her house with 3 cardboard fruit/vegetable baskets. She always wore a black beret pulled down to cover all of her hair. Mom and I had our kerchiefs to put on. Mom knew exactly where to drive. There were three different locations we would go to - - all of them in the Carmen (Rotterdam) area. The one we frequented the most was an area just past what used to be the Army Depot on Rt. 7. The area was sparsely settled back then. Mom would park the car off to the side of the road and Babcia would head off in one direction and we would head off in another. The hunt was on.

My mother had taught me to walk slowly and look for a slight bump in a pile of pine needles. Such a simple act but pushing the pine needles aside and finding a "good" mushroom was fun. Mom carried a pocket knife for cutting off the very bottom tip of the stem of the mushroom before it was put into the basket.

The most fun was finding a family of "redheads". I don't know any other name for that kind of mushroom. I also think I was especially excited about finding them because I, too, was a redhead. Sometimes uncovering a mound and finding one redhead, led to the discovery of several more in the immediate area. We called them a family because there would usually be one big mushroom (the daddy), one close by the big mushroom, but not as big (the mommy) and a smattering of little ones (the kiddies).

After a few hours, we would head back to the car. If Babcia didn't show up within 10 or 15 minutes, Mom would honk the horn and shortly thereafter, Babcia would walk out of the woods.

We chattered on the way home about the kinds of mushrooms found, the big finds where there has been several mushrooms in one area, the spoiled ones, etc. Babcia knew once she got home, she would be cleaning the mushrooms. Some of them would be pickled; others would be fried up with bacon and onions. So good!!

Mushrooming

I don't know why or when we stopped going for mushrooms. I think it might have been that the areas were becoming more populated and houses and new roads were sprouting up.

A few years prior to her death, my mother gave me the pocket knife she carried when we went mushrooming. She wanted me to pass it on to my grandson. I have yet to do it, but when I do, I am going to give him a copy of this article so he will know a little history of when his grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother would go mushroom picking.

Phyllis's Note: Marge is my first cousin. I, too, had the mushrooming experience with Babcia Korycinska. I was amazed by Babcia's sharp eyes to spot a mushroom clump where I saw only pine needles.

Do you have a mushrooming story? Please send it for the next newsletter!

Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski

Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus Schenectady, NY

Ewa Bartkowski was born on Dec 9, 1881 in Lutocin, Poland to Jan Bartkowski and Katarzyna Michalska. Ewa was christened at the Roman Catholic Parish in Lutocin on December 11, 1881 with the witness of her Godparents: Franciszek Kryszak and Ewa Krol. Ewa was one of three daughters and four brothers to Jan and Katarzyna: Marianna (1884 - ?), Anna (June 1891 – August, 13 1891), Jozef (1879 - ?), Jan (1880 - ?), Adam (Sept 9, 1886 - 1933), and Stanislaw (1889 - ?).



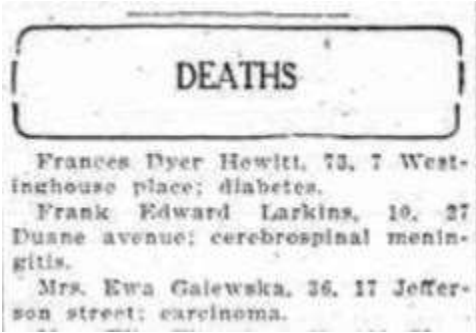
Ewa married Stanislaw Gajewski around 1908 before she immigrated to the United States in 1910. Ewa can be found on the 1920 census for Schenectady living with Stanley and their five children at 17 Jefferson Street.

Imię	Wzrost	Waga	Barwa włosów	Barwa oczu	Barwa skóry	Barwa nosa	Barwa ust	Barwa zębów	Barwa skóry	Barwa włosów	Barwa oczu	Barwa skóry	Barwa nosa	Barwa ust	Barwa zębów	Barwa skóry	Barwa włosów	Barwa oczu	Barwa skóry	Barwa nosa	Barwa ust	Barwa zębów
...

Ewa died at the age of 36 due to carcinoma of the stomach when my Grandfather Benjamin was only three years old. She was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery on December 13, 1920.

Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski

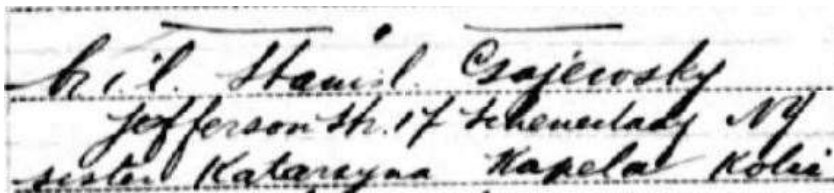
Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus Schenectady, NY



I recently went to visit my Great Grandmother and Grandfather's gravesite. The stones lie closely to Jan and Stanislaw Dobriesz, which I believe are somehow connected to my family. As I had mentioned in my summary of Stanley Gajewski – his death certificate indicated that his mother was Marianna Dobriesz. Additionally, Ewa's brother Adam married an Amelia Dobriesz, both of whom also resided in Schenectady.



Adam was born September 9, 1886 in Lutocin, Poland. He immigrated around the age of 18 in 1905 to the United States to his brother-in-law Stanislaw Gajewski at Jefferson Street.



of _____ State of New York

No. 581 FOR THE GROOM		FOR THE BRIDE	
NAME - Adam Bartkowski	COLOR - White	Amelia Dobriesz	COLOR - White
RESIDENCE - 17 Jefferson St. Schenectady	AGE - 27	17 Jefferson St. Schenectady	AGE - 26
BIRTHPLACE - Russian Poland	NO. OF MARRIAGES - 1st	Russian Poland	NO. OF MARRIAGES - 1st
FATHER - John Bartkowski	WIDOWED	Jacob Dobriesz	WIDOWED
MOTHER - Katarzyna Wiskalski	DECEASED	Russian Poland	DECEASED
BIRTHPLACE - Russian Poland	DECEASED	Prague, Bohemia	DECEASED
WITNESSES -	RELATION -	WITNESSES -	RELATION -
DATE OF MARRIAGE - Nov 17-08	PLACE OF MARRIAGE - Schenectady	DATE OF MARRIAGE -	PLACE OF MARRIAGE -
OFFICIAL - Pastor	BY - Adam Wilany, Joseph X Guckemus, Kolia		

No. 582 FOR THE GROOM

Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski

Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus Schenectady, NY

Mrs. Aniela Bartowski Dies in Home Here at 87

Mrs. Aniela Dobies-Bartowski, 87, of 1219 Elton Ave. died yesterday at her home after a brief illness.

Born in Poland, Mrs. Bartowski had lived in the Schenectady area most of her life. She was a member of Maloda-Polska Group 331 and a communicant of St. Mary's Church. She was the widow of Adam Bartowski.

Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. Edward DeMarco and Helen Bartowski of this city; Mrs. Vernon Barringer of Scotia, and Mrs. Harry Thompson of Milwaukee; a son, Ben Bartowski of this city; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Daly Funeral Home and at 9 at St. Mary's Church where a requiem mass will be celebrated. The funeral home will be open after 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Rev. Brown Lists Events

The Rev. Thomas Brown has announced the New Year's mass schedule at the Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, McArthur Drive, Scotia.

The vigil masses will be today at 6 and 7 p.m. and on New Year's Day masses will be at 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

LONDON — Nottinghamshire reports the first night-Heron since 1820.

On January 11, 1909 Adam married Amelia Dobriesz in Schenectady. It should be noted that at times I found Amelia's name to be spelled as Anelia and Nellie. Both Adam and Amelia resided at 17 Jefferson Street. Adam was employed as a Foundryman. Amelia's Father Jacob Dobriesz was from Russian Poland and her Mother Franceszka Fackowska was from Germany. Adam and Amelia had two sons Benjamin and John, as well as four daughters Stacia "Stella" DeMarco, Clara F. Barringer, Helen Barkowski, and Jane Nellie Thompson. When Amelia passed away on December 30, 1979 she was residing at 1219 Elton Ave. and we are told that she was survived by 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Amelia was a member of the Maloda-Polska Group 331 and was buried at the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

In 1917, Adam, at the age of 29, completed his Draft Registration Card which indicated that he lived at 36 Manhattan Street, Schenectady and was employed as a Helper at ALCO. According to this registration Adam was tall, medium build, with brown eyes and brown hair. Adam passed away in 1933 at the age of 47 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

My Great-Great Grandfather Jan Bartkowski at the age of 23 married Katarzyna Michalska on February 10, 1878 in Lutocin, Poland. According to their marriage record Jan was born in the village of Czarny and was residing in Daborowka. Jan was the son of Maciej Bartkowski and Rozalia Witkowska. At the time of their marriage Katarzyna Michalska was 21 years old and was residing in Lutocin. She was the daughter of Mateusz Michalska and Ewa Nizialkowska. The witnesses of the marriage were Jan Lewandowski and Jan Krol. Jan Bartkowski had two brothers named Antoni and Jozef, and two sisters, Katarzyna Lewandowski (b1846 Starcza) and Marianna Adranowicz.



Jan's brother Antoni immigrated to Schenectady and can be seen living with his sister Ewa and Stanley in the 1905 census (although the census indicated Stephen Gajewski this is incorrect).

Enumeration of the Inhabitants living in *First* Election District, Ward *Third*
 City of *Schenectady*, County of *Schenectady*, State of *NEW YORK*, on June 1, 1905.
 Name of Institution _____, Enumerator *Anthony Leone*

RESIDENCE	NAME	RELATION	COLOR, SEX AND AGE			NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION		FOR INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS ONLY
			Color	Sex	Age		By Birth	By Naturalization	Trade or profession of each person enumerated.	Other	
Street	House Number	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	White	Black	Age at last birthday	If born in this country, write latest census of foreign birth, with the name of the country.	Yes	No	Occupation	Other	If an inmate of an institution, enter the institution through, city or town, and county given when admitted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
17	Gajewski Stephen	Head	W	M	35	Russia Poland	H	W	Lay laborer		
	Ewa	Wife	W	F	22	Russia Poland	1	W	Housework		X
	John	Brother	W	M	20	Russia Poland	2	W	Lay laborer		W
	Stacia	Daughter	W	F	10	Russia Pol.	7	W	Lay laborer		W

Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski

Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus Schenectady, NY

Obituary

MRS. ANTHONY BARTKOWSKI

Jadwiga Cieszynski, 76, wife of Anthony Bartkowski of 7 Jefferson street, died Sunday at her home after a short illness. Services will be held tomorrow morning at 8:30 o'clock at her late home and mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock in St. Mary's Church, Eastern avenue. Burial will be made in St. Mary's cemetery, McClellan street.

Mrs. Bartkowski was born in Poland and had lived about 35 years in this city. She was a member of the Eastern avenue church and Prawda Praca Society, Z. N. P., which will attend the services.

Besides her husband she leaves one sister of this city and a number of cousins also living here.

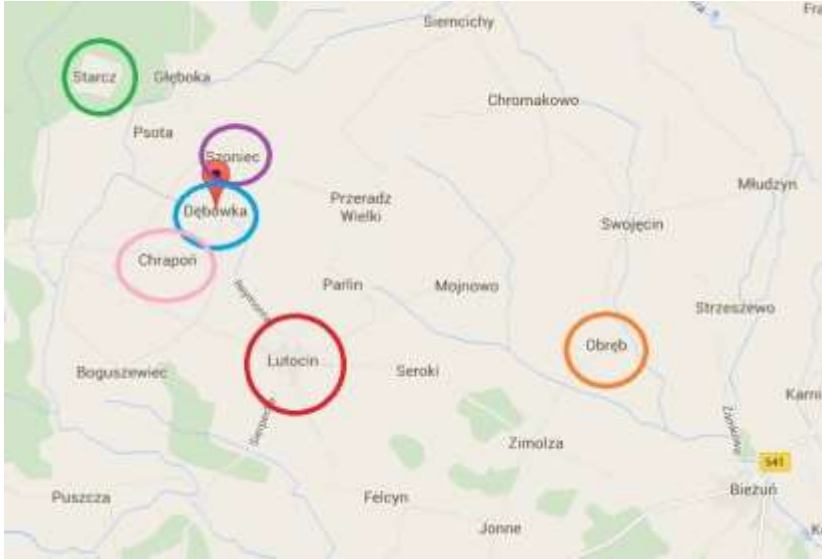
Antoni "Tony" married Jadwiga "Hedwig" Cieszynski. Jadwiga died on May 5, 1931 at her home at 7 Jefferson Street after a short illness. She was a member of the Eastern Avenue Church and Prawda Praca Society, Z.N.P.

After gathering numerous documents from Poland of the Bartkowski and Gajewski family I was able to highlight the various towns that my Polish ancestors came from. This includes Starcz, Szoniec, Dębówka, Chrapoń, Lutocin and Obręb. These towns fall between Biezuń and Żuromin in the Żuromin County, Masovian Voivodeship located in the middle of the green area on the map below.



Ewa Bartkowski Gajewski

Brianna (Gajewski) Guckemus Schenectady, NY



I plan to focus my future research in this area, to learn what life was like for my family in the late 1800's and early 1900's. I also would like to reach out to any living descendants of Adam and Amelia around Schenectady, New York in hopes of finding new information on the Bartkowski side of my family.

Survival in Poland During World War II:

How the Tys Family Survived the Nazi Invasion and Occupation of Poland
Carole Lynn (Tys –Giniecki) Groncki-McCarthy

In 1939, the Nazi army swept across Poland and occupied the country. At that time, my great grandparents and many of their children and grandchildren lived in the small village of Witkowice. It was a community of subsistence farmers located in southeastern Poland at the confluence of the Wistula and Sans Rivers. Most farmers owned only about five acres of land, one cow, and one horse and wagon. It was in this village that my grandfather, Jozef Tys was born on July 23, 1887 and where he grew up. He left the village around the age of 16, to get a job in Germany working as an apprentice brick layer. On Feb. 10, 1906, at the age of 19, he boarded the steamship, the SS Breslau, in Bremen, Germany. His destination was listed as Hegewisch, Chicago, Illinois and the port of arrival was Ellis Island, NY.

When Jozef left Witkowice he not only left behind his parents, Andrzej and Barbara (Bartochowska) but also eight siblings: six sisters and two brothers. One of his sisters was Jozefa (Josephine) b. 1901. In June of 1928 Jozefa married Stanislaw Rybak in Poland. On December 15, 1929 their first child was born, a girl that they named Teodozja (Helena). In 1933 a second daughter was born and they named her Kazimiera (Kazia or Kay). It was Kazia that related the following story to me when I met her for the first time in the summer of 2009 in Wallington, NJ.

Kazia told me she was only six years old when Poland came under the forced occupation of Third Reich. What she remembers of that time is that her mother would often put a pillow under her dress. She also remembers the tunnel, the place where all the teenage girls in the family were sent when any German or Russian soldiers were in the area. Apparently there was a warning signal set up by the neighbors that would alert them when it was time to go into hiding. Kazia was just a youngster during those terrible times so she would not be sent to the tunnel, however, her sister and cousins hid and also the other

Survival in Poland During World War II:

How the Tys Family Survived the Nazi Invasion and Occupation of Poland

Carole Lynn (Tys –Giniecki) Groncki-McCarthy

women folk. Some of the younger men would also hide in the tunnel, including Kazia's father Stanislaw, so they would not be found and sent to the labor camps. They also hid some of the Jewish families in this tunnel that "was two blocks long". So when the German or Russian soldiers came to the house, they would just find a little girl of six or seven years old and her very pregnant mother. When the soldiers asked where her husband was she would say he was out in the fields or in town working. In this way they escaped any serious harm.

My mother told a different version of their survival story in her unpublished Memoirs, The Farmer's Daughter by Florence Tys Groncki. She wrote, "My dad's parents, Andrew and Barbara, died during World War II. Grandma Tys was killed by the German Nazis because she was helping some Jewish refugees to escape while in route to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The train had a scheduled stop not far from the Tys farm where the SS troops unlocked the sliding doors of the box cars, jammed with Jews both young and old. They were ordered to clean out the stench straw (used to sit, sleep and as a toilet) and also to throw out the dead bodies in nearby ditches. Some of the Jews were very much alive but played dead as their friends would carry them into the ditch. They would feign possum until the train left and then rushed to nearby homes hoping for refuge, ultimately escap(ing) to freedom. It was at the Tys farmhouse that many were concealed for days and many escaped to freedom. During one of these trips, one of the SS German soldiers became suspicious when he noticed that there seemed to be too many dead Jews being carried out of the boxcars but specifically they were young bodies while the older Jews were alive. Nothing was done immediately, but a few days later the SS Troops stormed the surrounding homes and barns in the vicinity and those harboring the Jews were killed. When the Nazi Storm Troopers were searching the Tys buildings, Grandpa Andrew Tys was out in the field harvesting his grain, but Grandma Barbara Tys, at that particular moment, was bringing food to 5 Jews being sheltered in an old abandoned well a short distance from her house. Without her knowing that she was being watched by the Nazis, she went down into the well with the food and within seconds the Nazis machine-gunned dear, sweet Grandma and the 5 befriended Jews."

I would guess that my mother's version of the story was what she heard from her father who of course was in America at the time. Since Kazia was in Witkowice at the time of the invasion and occupation, although she was young, I would have to think that her version is more accurate.

When I asked Kazia about my mother's version of the story, it was then that she told me about the tunnel. In addition, she told me that during the blitzkrieg, they took refuge in the forest in order to avoid being shot. They spent many months there and only ate roots that grew in the forest. Kazia said that her grandmother, Barbara, would always give whatever food she found in the forest to the children. As a result, she did not eat that much and her strength diminished. In 1949 she died, apparently from the effects of poor nutrition and near starvation in the forest.

The Korycinski Family

Phyllis Zych Budka and first cousin Jane Korycinski Smith

From: "The Korycinski-Gzys Family History: Across Many Lands,"
by Jane Korycinski Smith

The Korycinski brothers, Josef, Peter and Ignacy, were of noble Polish heritage born in Zailgi, Lithuania. In Lithuania, the family had two small factories; one made felt, the other produced bricks. The region was ruled by the Russians. Rather than be subject to the Russian draft, the brothers left for America and came to Schenectady in 1911.

The three brothers went to work for the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) and became machinists. Oldest brother, Josef, was a sub foreman in the vertical milling machine group. The brothers lived on the same street and walked to work.

Each of the Korycinski brothers was able to find employment for his son in the vertical milling group. Leonard, Ignacy's son, joined the group soon after high school graduation. Victor, Josef's son, worked there during college summer vacations. Peter Francis, son of Peter, writes:

I joined the group ... when the national economy was rising. Victor worked on summer vacations from college. I think for Leonard, myself and Victor working with our fathers gave us an invaluable insight in how the brothers worked together, the respect they received from their supervisors and co-workers, as well as how they trained and treated their sons.

Peter Francis Korycinski

Many years ago my father, Ignacy. (and his brothers)...all worked at the American Locomotive Company in Schenectady in the machine shop. And each had his son working there also. For some reason which I don't know, we were known as 'THE HAPPY FAMILY.'

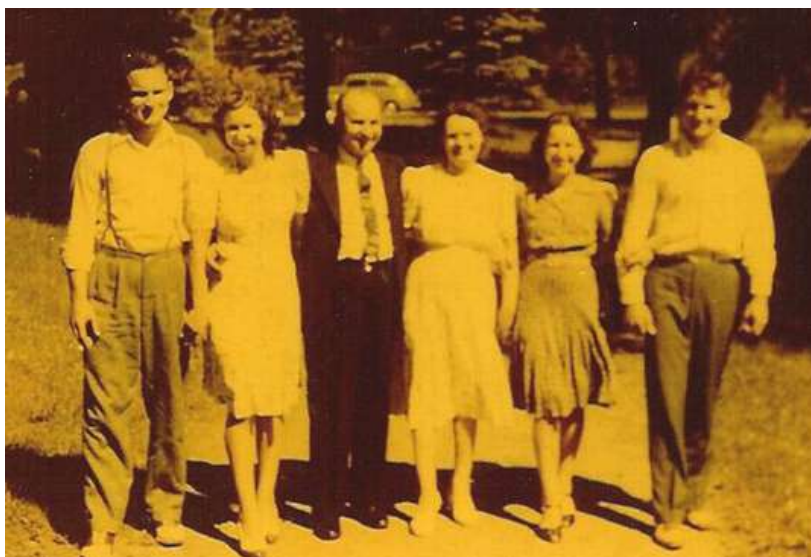
Victor Korycinski



1940s Our Grandparents: Victoria Gzysms Korycinska (Babcia, the mushroom picker) and Peter Korycinski (Dziadzia)

The Korycinski Family

Phyllis Zych Budka and first cousin Jane Korycinski Smith



1930s - Family of Victoria and Peter Korycinski: L to R Alexander, Wanda (Marge Norris Brophy's Mother), Peter, Victoria, Sophie (Phyllis Zych Budka's Mother), Peter Francis (Jane Korycinski Smith's Father)

DNA Results - Phyllis Zych Budka

My quandary over a gift for my son, Ken's birthday, led me to jump at the Ancestry DNA Kit "sale" this summer. I got a kit for him and one for myself (\$80 each on sale). It's an interesting process. First, go on line to register the kit. The next step is to spit into a small bottle – more than 30 minutes after eating. Check that the liquid hits the line on the bottle (not a problem), screw on the cap and make sure the liquid turns blue, indicating a successful sample. Put the bottle into the preaddressed envelope and then wait 3 to 4 weeks.

The results come in e-mail along with lots of additional information. Whew! Thank goodness for the 91% "Europe East" result! Ken's results are similar, minus the Finland/Northwest Russia component.



Through sharing DNA results, which I agreed to do, Ancestry identified 24 potential 4th cousins or closer. There was only one possible 3rd cousin; I wrote to that person but have not yet heard from him/her. I recognized a family surname in a potential 4th cousin entry and I've just written to another with a surname from my grandparents' birth town in Poland. Ancestry DNA did correctly

identify Ken as my son. I have not put any genealogy information into the Ancestry database, and I will not. But that is another way to connect with possible family.

DNA Results – Carole McCarthy

Ten years ago I was fortunate to be the recipient of a letter from a student at Poznan University who lived in Szczecinek, Poland. The letter was addressed to my Uncle Victor Tys, my mother's brother, who had passed away 20 years earlier in Schenectady, NY. As a result, my aunt received the letter and gave it to her son, my cousin, who then gave it to me. The student's name was Kamila. She wrote to all the Tys' in the US in the hope of finding relatives of her Tyś grandmother. I was ecstatic to make this connection and we immediately began emailing and it continues today.

Over these 10 years we have compared our family trees without finding our common ancestor. We did find that our Tyś relations both came from southeastern Poland: Kamila's from Winiarki and mine from Witkowice, only about 20 miles apart with the Vistula River separating the two towns. The town of Sandomierz is to the south of us, Zamość to the east and Lublin to the north east.

Two years ago Kamila told me that she purchased a DNA kit from FamilyTree and she was encouraging me to do the same in the hope of finding our common ancestor. Unfortunately it did not help to solve the mystery. The DNA kit that we used was for Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) which is DNA passed down from your maternal line. The only thing I learned was that I am 100% Eastern European which I already knew since three of my grandparents emigrated from Poland in the early 20th century and the one born in the USA, her parents were born in northwestern Poland, near Poznan.

This past fall Kamila told me that we could get more information out of our DNA data by sending it to GEDmatch. It is nice having a younger friend because she seems to know all about the DNA testing and the analysis. I followed her instructions and within an hour sent off my data to GEDmatch. Within a few days, Kamila wrote back that there was good news and bad news. The bad news was that there was no match back to the 4th generation but it looks like a partial match around the 10th generation. She then said that she would have the analysis done within smaller segments of our DNA. The next day she wrote back excitedly that we were a match at the 6th generation. Since this was a mitochondrial DNA testing it meant that the match was through the maternal side. We then filled in a chart for maternal ancestors to try to discover our common ancestor. We both had a maternal Konieczny in our family tree back to the 5th generations for me and 6th for Kamila. We thought we had found the link but Kamila found out our two Konieczny ancestors were from different geographical areas; Kamila's was from Konin and mine from Poznan. As a result, she does not believe that Konieczny could be our common ancestor. So we continue to look. I am doubly lucky to know Kamila because besides being versant in DNA she is also a linguist and has been very helpful in my research translating my Polish, German, Russian and Latin documents. We continue to look for that common ancestor and now we are looking at my great grandmother Barbara Bartochowska since Kamila's 3rd great grandmother is Agnieszka Bartochowska.

Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901 – 1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek
Jakubczak – Middle Years (1913 – 1918)
Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D., Gaithersburg, Maryland

This series of articles describes the lives of Julianna Polek Jakubczak (1895-1957) and her extended Polish-immigrant family during her temporary stay in Schenectady, New York, at the turn of the 20th Century. Julianna (a.k.a. Julia) spent that time growing, working, marrying in the *Electric City*, and eventually leaving it for Buffalo, New York. Her experiences, perhaps, were shared by thousands of Schenectady immigrants.

The first article ¹ set the stage by detailing from where Julianna and her family came (1892-1901). The second article ² described her early years in Schenectady (1901-1913). The present article describes Julianna's middle years there (1913-1918). During this period, she continues to experience the growth of the Polek-Spiewak-Siudy extended family, the intermittent disbursement of her father's death benefits, the start of World War I and America's entry into it, her own marriage, and the resultant temporary loss of her American citizenship.

12 July 1913 A life-insurance benefit of \$200 (~\$4900 in 2015 dollars³) is issued to Julianna Polek's recently-widowed mother, Marianna.⁴ It is in response to an appeal, on Marianna's behalf, by the secretary of the St. Adalbert Society, Local #242 of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, located in St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Parish, Schenectady, to the union's headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. The remainder of the \$1,000 insurance policy will be paid to Marianna's children, Julianna (18 years old), Anna (15 years old), Jozef (Joseph, 14 years old), Jozefa (Josephine, 11 years old), and Feliksa (Felicia, 10 years old), on their respective 21st birthdays, over several years.

28 June 1914 Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria-Hungary, is assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, by a 19-year-old Bosnian anarchist, Gavril Princip, igniting World War I (1914-1918).⁵ Initially, an alliance of France, Russia, and the United Kingdom (the *Allies*) fights the alliance of Austria-Hungary and Germany (the *Central Powers*).⁶ The United States of America will join the *Allies* in 1917.

The start of World War I ignites Polish nationalism among Poles in Schenectady.⁷ They quickly organize committees for the collection of funds for the relief of their families in

¹ Leonard F. Jakubczak, "Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn [Sojourn] (1901-1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (b. 1895; d. 1957)", *Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, July 2015, Vol. 2, #3, e-newsletter, (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2015-07.pdf>), 14-17.

² Leonard F. Jakubczak, "Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn [Sojourn] (1901-1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (b. 1895; d. 1957)", *Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, October 2015, Vol. 2, #4, e-newsletter, (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2015-10.pdf>), 10-15.

³ *Dave Manuel.Com*, "Inflation Calculator," website, (www.davemanuel.com : accessed 16 September 2015), (1901; \$1,000).

⁴ Jan Polek insurance policy, no. 14481, issued 13 May 1901, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), Chicago, Illinois; photocopy of file-remarks page "Uwagi" supplied by PRCUA to Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland, ~1997; photocopy privately held by the latter.

⁵ Max Hastings, *Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), xxx-xxxvii.

⁶ Wikipedia contributors, "World War I," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=World_War_I&oldid=683520722 (accessed October 1, 2015); introductory page.

⁷ Robert R. Pascucci, "Fraternal Societies and Churches," *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930; Schenectady Digital History Archive* (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/pascucci/2.html> : accessed 30 September 2015), paras. 44-45: "The outbreak . . ."; "The creation . . ."

Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901 – 1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak – Middle Years (1913 – 1918)

Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D., Gaithersburg, Maryland

Poland. Battles between Russia (a member of the *Allies*) and Germany and Austria-Hungary (the *Central Powers*) will soon be fought in the western and southern parts of partitioned Poland, from where the Poleks and Spiewaks (and Jakubczaks) come. These back-and-forth battles will result in much suffering among the civilian populations.⁸

Some Schenectady Poles volunteer to fight in the *Polish Legion* of the French army against Germany,⁹ hoping to facilitate Poland's reunification and independence after the war. The *Polish Falcons of America*, a paramilitary gymnastics and fraternal benefit society, overtly wants to fight for Polish independence, and becomes the driving force behind the creation of the Polish Army in France.¹⁰ The *Falcons* set up centers in Schenectady and other cities with large Polish-immigrant populations to recruit men, who are not yet American citizens, to serve in the proposed Polish Legion of the French army. Weekends are filled with pageants, dinners, speeches, parades, and church processions to encourage volunteers to join that legion. None of Julianna's relatives, however, join this armed force.¹¹ In 1946 a monument will be erected in the St. Adalbert Cemetery by the *Polish Army Veterans of America*, Post # 18, in memory of those veterans who had fought in France and Poland from 1917 to 1920 in the French/Polish Army (*Blue Army*).^{12 13}

24 December 1914 In Schenectady, at the sight of the first star, Julianna's family sits down to eat an elaborate dinner ("Wigilia"), which includes, among other things, mushroom soup, Polish dumplings (Pierogi), poppy seed cakes, and Christmas wafers (Oplatki). At meal's end, the family and guests exchange bits of honey-coated wafers, asking each other for forgiveness of the previous-year's slights, if any, and wishing each other a "Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year." After dinner, Julianna, her family and guests attend midnight Mass at St. Adalbert Church, joining fellow parishioners in worship and the singing of traditional Polish carols, accompanied by "one of the finest pipe organs in Schenectady."¹⁴

7 May 1915 A German U-boat (submarine) torpedoes and sinks a British passenger ship, the HMS *Lusitania*, in the North Atlantic Ocean. About 1100 passengers perish; 120 are Americans. This brazen act begins to turn American public opinion against Germany.¹⁵

⁸ Max Hastings, "Three Armies in Poland," *Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 386-397.

⁹ Richard P. Kaleta, "The Blue Army: Polish American Soldiers in World War I," *Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, vol. V (Winter 1996-1997): 1-4.

¹⁰ Ruskoski, David Thomas, "The Polish Army in France: Immigrants in America, World War I Volunteers in France, Defenders of the Recreated State in Poland." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2006 (http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/1 : accessed 15 December 2015) 15, 42.

¹¹ Jakubczak-Polek family oral history regarding Schenectady relatives volunteering for the Polish Army in France, never mentioned during the late 1900s by Genia Las (Buffalo, Erie, New York), daughter of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (1895-1957), to the latter's son, Leonard F. Jakubczak (Gaithersburg, Maryland).

¹² St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, *1903 Church of St. Adalbert 1978, Schenectady, New York* (New York: Park Publishing Company, 1978), 25.

¹³ Michael Krupinsky, "The Polish Army in France in WWI – Haller's Army," *Haller's Army -- Polska Armia w Francji* (<http://www.hallersarmy.com> : accessed October 17, 2015), para. 3.

¹⁴ St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, *1903 Church of St. Adalbert 1978, Schenectady, New York* (New York: Park Publishing Company, 1978), 20.

¹⁵ *History.Com*, Article, "The *Lusitania* Sinks: May 7, 1915" (<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/lusitania> : accessed 18 December 2015).

Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901 – 1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak – Middle Years (1913 – 1918)

Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D., Gaithersburg, Maryland

1 June 1915 According to the 1915 New York State Census, 20-year-old Julia [Julianna] Polek lives at 21 Lansing Street, Ward 9, Schenectady, with her 42-year-old mother, Mary [Marianna], and four siblings. Mary is a native of Austria Poland [*sic*, Austria-Hungary], is the head of the household, a house-worker, has lived in the U.S.A. for 24 years, and who identifies herself as an American citizen.¹⁶ Julia's siblings are: Anna (17 years old), Jozef (Joseph, 14 years old), Jozefa (Josephine, 12 years old), and Feliksa (Felicia, 11 years old). Julianna and Anna are employed as "tape-workers," while the other children are still in school.

The Poleks share rented quarters with two lodgers, 42-year-old Michael Spiwak [*sic*; Spiewak], possibly a relative of Mary, and his 9 year-old daughter, Jannia. He also is a native of "Austria Poland," has lived in the U.S.A. for 14 years, and still is an alien. Jannia, his daughter, is an American citizen. According to family lore, each Saturday evening, apparently as a courtesy, Jannia is allowed to bathe first, leading to consternation among some Polek children, who have to use the same bath water for their weekly baths. They are especially upset when she contracts head lice!¹⁷

Julianna's uncle, 29-year-old Peter [Piotr] Spiewak, lives with his family at 220 Second Avenue, Ward 9.¹⁸ He, his wife, 29-year-old Rozalya [*sic*, Rozalia, Rosalie], and his 20-year-old sister, Julia Spiewak (Julianna's aunt), are natives of "Austria Poland." Peter and Rozalya Spiewak's children (Juliana's cousins) are: 6-year-old Anna, 5-year-old John, and 2-year-old Jozef (Joseph), all born in the U.S.A. Peter is a general laborer, and his sister, Julia, is a wire winder, both at the General Electric Company, while Rozalya's occupation is "house work." While Peter and wife have lived in the U.S.A. for 13 years, Julia has lived there only for 6 years. None of the Peter Spiewak adults is a citizen of the U.S.A., but their children are.

Another of Julianna's uncles, John (Jan) Spiwak [*sic*, Spiewak], the head of the household, and his wife, Cathrin [*sic*, Catherine, Katarzyna], live at 418 Cutler Street, Schenectady's Ward 9.¹⁹ He is 37 years old, and she is 34 years old. Both are from "Austria Poland," having lived in the U.S.A. for 12 and 10 years, respectively, but are not citizens of the country. John is a general laborer, and she is a house worker. No children are listed.

¹⁶ 1915 New York State Census, Schenectady County, population schedule, City of Schenectady, p. 9, house no. 21, lines 32-39, in Mary Polek household; New York State Archives, Albany; FHL microfilm 0523342; photocopy in possession of L.F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

¹⁷ Jakubczak-Polek family oral history regarding Jannia Spiwak [*sic* Spiewak], Schenectady, New York, as reported during the late 1900s by Genia Las (Buffalo, Erie, New York), daughter of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (1895-1957), to the latter's son, Leonard F. Jakubczak (Gaithersburg, Maryland).

¹⁸ 1915 New York State Census, Schenectady County, population schedule, City of Schenectady, p. 13, house no. 220, lines 21-26, in Peter Spiewak household; New York State Archives, Albany; FHL microfilm 0523342; photocopy in possession of L.F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

¹⁹ 1915 New York State Census, Schenectady County, population schedule, City of Schenectady, p. 6, house no. 418, lines 19-20, in John Spiwak [*sic*, Spiewak] household; New York State Archives, Albany; FHL microfilm 0523342; photocopy in possession of L.F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

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Finally, Julianna's aunt, Jozefa (Josephine), her husband, John (Jan) Siudy, and their son, John, live at 135 First Avenue, Ward 9, Schenectady.²⁰ John [the elder] is the head of the household, and is 31 years old, the same age as his wife, Jozefa, while their son is 4 years old. They have a lodger living with them, John [surname illegible], who is 46 years old. All three adults are natives of "Austria Poland," have lived in the U.S.A. for 15 years, and are listed as "aliens." The son, John, is listed as a "citizen." The occupations of John (senior) and Jozefa are electrician and house worker, respectively, while the occupation of the lodger is "motor operator."

16 November 1916 Julianna Polek is paid \$200 -- her share of her father Jan's death insurance benefit.²¹ Two hundred of 1916 dollars will be worth \$4444 in 2015 dollars.²²

1917 Because of discontent within St. Adalbert parish, an unsuccessful attempt is made on the life of its second pastor, Rev. Stanislaw Chmielewski. An explosive pilfered from the General Electric Company, damages the reception room of the rectory, but he is unhurt, having been detained at an evening meeting of parishioners.²³ But discontent with the "autocratic" pastor continues, and by 1921, several families leave the parish, and join the *Polish National Catholic Church*, a Protestant-like congregation, unaffiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.^{24 25}

About this time, Julianna receives an engagement ring from Jan (John) Jakubczak of Schenectady, formerly from the Village of Ostrowas, County of Nieszawa, Province of Warsaw, Empire of Russia, and who is the son of Josephus [Jozef] and Anna *nee* Wielich Jakubczak of the same village. As an engagement gift, Jan presents Julianna with a lapel watch. But, after learning that he had previously given it to another woman (who gave it back to him), Julianna keeps it, but refuses to wear it, ever! Both ring and lapel watch remain in the Jakubczak family possession.²⁶

6 April, 1917 The United States of America declares war on Germany, citing Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic

²⁰ 1915 New York State Census, [Schenectady County, population schedule, City of Schenectady,] p. 64, house no. 135, lines 21-24, in John Siudy household; [New York State Archives, Albany; FHL microfilm 0523342; photocopy in possession of L.F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland.]

²¹ Jan Polek insurance policy, no. 14481, issued 13 May 1901, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), Chicago, Illinois; photocopy of file-remarks page "Uwagi" [Comments supplied by PRCUA to Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland, ~1997; photocopy privately held by Jakubczak.

²² [davemanuel.com](http://www.davemanuel.com), "Inflation Calculator," website, (<http://www.davemanuel.com/inflationcalculator.php?theyear=1916&amountmoney=200> : accessed 2 October 2015).

²³ St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, *1903 Church of St. Adalbert 1978, Schenectady, New York* (New York: Park Publishing Company, 1978), 9-10.

²⁴ Robert R. Pascucci, "Fraternal Societies and Churches," *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930*; para. 42, starting with: "During World War I..."

²⁵ *The Polish National Church: Through the Years*, website (http://www.pncc.org/?page_id=6 : accessed 27 December 2015) "Our History."

²⁶ Jakubczak-Polek family oral history regarding Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak, Schenectady, New York, as reported during the late 1900s by Genia Las (Buffalo, Erie, New York), daughter of Julianna to the latter's son, Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

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Ocean. Later, on December 7, 1917, the United States will also declare war on Germany's ally, Austria-Hungary.²⁷

Upon America's entrance into the war, German and Austro-Hungarian Poles (such as the Poleks, Siudys and Spiewaks) are classified as "enemy aliens."²⁸ They are "corralled" into a stadium, and lectured by immigration officials on how to best conduct themselves to avoid arrest. The General Electric Company forbids conversation in any language but English, and conducts Americanization classes. More often than not, however, American authorities seek the support of all of Schenectady's Poles. The pastors of St. Mary's and St. Adalbert's parishes now open their facilities for war rallies and appeals for money and volunteers, not only for the *Polish Legion* of the French army, but now also for the Armed Forces of the United States. Schenectady Poles who are not yet American citizens can legally join only the Polish Legion, while American citizens can legally join only the American Armed Forces.

23 June 1917 Twenty-six-year-old Joannes [Jan, John] Jakubczak and 22-year-old Julianna Polek lawfully marry in the Church of St. Adalbert, Schenectady, according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of the State of New York. Julianna's siblings, Josephus [Joseph] Polek and Anna C. Polek, are witnesses. The Rev. Stanislaw Chmielewski presides over the wedding.²⁹ Joannes [Jan] is from the Village of Ostrowas, County of Nieszawa, Province of Warsaw, Empire of Russia, and is the son of Josephus [Jozef] and Anna *nee* Wielich Jakubczak. Julianna is from "Hazelton County" [*sic*, Carbon County, Village of Audenried (near Hazleton)], Pennsylvania.³⁰ She is the daughter of Joannes (Jan) and Maria *nee* Spiewak Polek [of Austria-Hungary]. The groom had resided at 130 Crane Street, and the bride at 30 Lansing Street. Both partners work at the General Electric Company.³¹

Because of the *Expatriation Act* of the U.S. Congress, signed into law on March 2, 1907, Julianna, by marrying John (still an alien), technically loses her American citizenship, and takes on his legal nationality (Russian).³² She loses all the rights associated with American citizenship. With the passage of and subsequent amendments to Congress's *Cable Act* (1922), however, citizenship for women will no longer depend on that of their husbands. Nevertheless, not until 2 July 1940, will Julianna be able to regain her citizenship. To achieve that, she will have to take an oath of allegiance before a

²⁷ U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, *Milestones, 1914-1920*, "U.S. Entry into World War I, 1917," website, (<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/wwi> : assessed 3 October 2015).

²⁸ Robert R. Pascucci, "Fraternal Societies and Churches," *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930; Schenectady Digital History Archive* (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/pascucci/2.html> : accessed 30 September 2015), para. 46, "Upon America's entrance . . ."

²⁹ St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church (Schenectady, New York), *Marriage Register 1903-1922* (Latin Copy), Jakubczak-Polek marriage (23 June 1917), photocopied page, provided 14 February 1994.

³⁰ Leonard F. Jakubczak, "Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn [Sojourn] (1901-1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (b. 1895; d. 1957)", *Project to Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, July 2015, Vol. 2, #3, e-newsletter, (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eeer/eeer-2015-07.pdf>) 15.

³¹ City of Schenectady, New York, marriage certificate no. 6634 (1917), Jakubczak-Polak [*sic*, Polek], Office of the City Clerk, Schenectady, New York, *Book of Marriages: City of Schenectady, New York*, vol. 2, pg. 324, #6634; photocopy of record obtained 25 July 1994.

³² Loretto Dennis Szucs, *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Incorporated, 1998), 161-163.

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naturalization court. It is unclear whether she ever did so. John will not become an American citizen until 1952.³³

25 September 1917 Julianna's "uncle-in-law," John Siudy, a machinist, is naturalized as a citizen of the United States in the Supreme Court of Schenectady, New York.³⁴ Josephine [Jozefa] is listed as his wife, and John (born: 1911), and Walter (born: 1917) as his children.

8 January 1918 United States President Woodrow Wilson proposes that, after the war, "An independent Polish state should be erected ..."³⁵ This proclamation makes Wilson a hero to Schenectady's Poles.

18 June 1918 In one of their first encounters with the Germans, the First Regiment of the Polish Army in France, consisting mostly of members of the Polish Falcons from America, moves into sectors of the frontline held by the American 81st Division. One platoon suffered huge losses: 2 people killed, 7 wounded and 3 missing.³⁶

12 September 1918 Julianna's husband, Jan (John) Jakubczak, registers for the 1918 military draft for possible induction into the U.S. Armed Forces in World War I.³⁷ He is 26 years old, lives at 38 Lansing Street. Born 18 June 1889 in Ostrowas, "Poland-Russia" [*sic*; the Russian partition of Poland], he lists himself as a citizen of Russia, and an "alien" [not yet having attained U.S. citizenship]. Jan is a bench worker at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, and is married. He has no previous military service, and claims an exemption to the draft on the basis of support of a dependent [wife]. Jan is "tall, stout, brown hair and eyes, not bald, nor disabled in any way."

Also registering for the draft are Julianna's two uncles: 38-year-old Peter [Piotr] Spiewak of 138 Crane Street, a laborer at "County Coal Company,"³⁸ and his brother, 41-year-old John [Jan] of 418 Cutler Street, a laborer at the General Electric Company, who has

³³ Jan Jakubczak certificate of naturalization, file number 7016619, petition number 50006 (6 March 1952), U.S. District Court of the Western District of New York, Buffalo, New York; original in the possession of Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland

³⁴ John J. Woodward, Clerk, County Clerk's Office, Schenectady, New York, to Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Maryland, letter, 9 March 1995, certifying that their records contain requested information on the naturalization of John Siudy, petition no. 1978, certificate no. 789287, date (of naturalization) 24 August 1917, in the Supreme Court of Schenectady; privately held by Jakubczak, 2015.

³⁵ Piotr S. Wandycz, "The Lands of Partitioned Poland, 1795-1918" [in a series: *A History of East Central Europe*, P.F. Sugar and D. W. Treadgold, editors.] (Seattle and London, University of Washington Press, 1974), 7: 361.

³⁶ Ruskoski, David Thomas, "The Polish Army in France: Immigrants in America, World War I Volunteers in France, Defenders of the Recreated State in Poland." Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2006 (http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/history_diss/1 : accessed 15 December 2015) 62-63.

³⁷ "Registration Card," *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, John Jakubczak, serial no. 1562, order no. 1496/316, Draft Board #1, Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York, photocopy from the National Archives and Records Administration (1995), in personal possession of Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland, 2015.

³⁸ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KXB8-3P4> : accessed 9 October 2015), Peter Spiewak, 1917-1918; citing Schenectady City no 1, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,818,931.

Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901 – 1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak – Middle Years (1913 – 1918)

Leonard F. Jakubczak, Ph.D., Gaithersburg, Maryland

“bad feet.”³⁹ Both brothers identify their wives as nearest relatives, and themselves as “non-declarant aliens,” i.e., those who have not applied for United States citizenship.⁴⁰

Finally, also registering for the draft are Julianna’s “uncle-in-law,” 24-year-old John [Jan] Siudy of 106 Orchard Street, a mechanic at the General Electric Company, a naturalized citizen,⁴¹ and her brother, Joseph [Jozef] Polek, of 38 Lansing Street, a laborer at the General Electric Company. [Perhaps out of a sense of patriotism], he identifies himself as an 18-year-old American citizen, born 5 January, 1900.⁴² In fact, he was born 5 January 1901.⁴³ He cites Mary [Marianna] Polek, his mother, as his nearest relative.

On this day in France, the American Expeditionary Force, under Commander-in-chief General John J. Pershing, launches its first major offensive in Europe as an independent army. The U.S.-led attack occurs in the Saint-Mihiel salient, a triangular area of land between Verdun and Nancy occupied by the German army since the autumn of 1914.⁴⁴ Will any of Julianna’s relatives be drafted into the U.S. Army?

(To be continued in final installment: 1919-1925.)

³⁹ “United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KXB8-3PW> : accessed 9 October 2015), John Spiewak, 1917-1918; citing Schenectady City no 1, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,818,931.

⁴⁰ “Selective Service Regulations for Aliens Issued; Doctors Face Induction,” *JTA [Jewish Telegraphic Agency] Newsletter*, 13 February 1942, online archives (<http://www.jta.org/1942/02/13/archive/selective-service-regulations-for-aliens-issued-doctors-face-induction>) : accessed 9 October 2015), quotation, para. 2.

⁴¹ Registration Card,” *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards*, 1917-1918, John Siudy, serial no. 2427, order no. 1214, Draft Board #1, Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York, photocopy from the National Archives and Records Administration (1990s), in personal possession of Leonard F. Jakubczak, Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland, 2015.

⁴² “United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KXB8-SRG> : accessed 9 October 2015), Joseph Polek, 1917-1918; citing Schenectady City no 1, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,818,931.

⁴³ Leonard F. Jakubczak, “Timeline: Schenectady Sojourn (1901-1925) of Julianna *nee* Polek Jakubczak (b. 1895; d. 1957)”, *Project to Discover Schenectady County’s Eastern European Roots Newsletter*, July 2015, Vol. 2, #3, e-newsletter, (<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/eer-2015-07.pdf>), 14-17.

⁴⁴ The Library of Congress, *Today in History, September 12, “The Saint-Mihiel Offensive”* (<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/sep12.html>) : accessed 19 December 2015).

*Schooling the Children of Schenectady's Italian and Polish
Immigrants,
1900-1930*

Presented by Robert R. Pascucci, Ph.D.
Saturday, March 26th at 2:00 p.m.



At the
Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305
\$5.00 Admission – Free for SCHS Members

Dr. Pascucci will discuss the impact that the large influx of Italian and Polish immigrant families had on the Schenectady schools. He will also examine the extent to which the schools helped assimilate the children and analyze both the achievement and failures of the educational system during these years.

Dr. Pascucci is a retired educator who received his Ph.D. in history at the University at Albany. His doctoral dissertation is entitled: *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930*.

For more information, please call 518-374-0263 or email librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org. The Schenectady Historical Society is wheelchair accessible, with off-street parking behind the building and overflow parking next door at the YWCA.