

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

September 2014 Vol. 1 No. 4

Welcome to our fourth newsletter! Our objective is to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories, and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants. We're on our way, but we need each of you to share family history, help pass the (electronic) word and perhaps participate in the Projects listed on page 14.

**Table of Contents**

Title	Author	Page
<b>Frank Taberski</b>	<b>Alice Scott</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Maska Dramatic Circle Members My Scrapbook Project</b>	<b>Phyllis Zych Budka</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Szulinskis of Schenectady Part 1: Finding a Lost Great Uncle</b>	<b>Craig Siulinski</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pulaski Day in Schenectady, New York</b>	<b>Phyllis Zych Budka</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Searching for Family Using Ancestry.com</b>	<b>Bernice Izzo</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Maska Names</b>	<b>Phyllis Zych Budka</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Three Project Projects!</b>	-----	<b>14</b>
<b>St. Adalbert's Polish American Festival August 16 – 17, 2014</b>	-----	<b>15</b>

We need your stories! The next deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. To submit your family story, pictures, etc, e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)

To be added to the newsletter e-mail list, contact Phyllis.

The frequency of this newsletter's publication depends on the volume of family stories we receive.

Many thanks to authors Alice, Craig and Bernice and editors Carole McCarthy and Bernice Izzo.

# Frank Taberski

## Alice Scott

Did you know that Schenectady can count a world champion billiards player as one of its past residents? Frank Taberski, one of my Polish ancestors, made his home here and even owned a bowling alley and pool hall on the corner of Broadway and State Street, which some of you might remember seeing. His parents were Andreas Taberski and Francisca Olejniczak who were married in 1877 in Uzarzewo, Poland. The Taberskis immigrated from Kaczanowo, Poznan in 1883 and settled in Stuyvesant Falls, New York. They had seven living children, Frank being born there in 1889. By 1900 the family had moved to Amsterdam, New York, where Andrew ran a saloon, and his son learned to play billiards.

When Frank went to New York City to watch a World Champion Billiards tournament in 1915, he knew he could do better. He immediately began professional play and the very next year became the world champion! He won the title again in 1917, 1918, 1925, 1927, 1928 and 1929. Due to his very slow and deliberate style of play, Frank had many nicknames, among those are the Silent Pole, the Snail, the Inexorable Sloth, and in his later years, the Silver Fox. In fact, the rules of the tournament were changed to state that each player's turn must be taken within 3 minutes due to Frank's strategic method. According to his obituary, no matter how bad the situation was, he would always smile during play, which really had a negative effect on his opponent's mindset!

In the 1920s he moved to Schenectady and married Loretta Zaremba. They had three sons, Frank Jr. Harold and Ernest. Frank died on Oct. 25, 1941 and both he

and Loretta are buried in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Niskayuna. But Frank was not forgotten. In 1975 he was inducted into the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame in the elite Greatest Player category.



Long Island Daily Press Page 16, December 18, 1929

**Frank Taberski  
Alice Scott (contd)**



Frances and Andrew Taberski, Frank's parents

Through the wonders of cinematography you can watch Frank Taberski perform trick shots in a silent movie newsreel on YouTube at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m\\_LmrLru5I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m_LmrLru5I)

If you'd like to know more about Frank Taberski, check out these websites:

[http://www.billiardsdigest.com/new\\_current\\_issue/sep\\_12/taberski\\_2.php](http://www.billiardsdigest.com/new_current_issue/sep_12/taberski_2.php)

<http://bca-pool.com/?32>

**The Maska Dramatic Circle  
Names**

**My Scrapbook Project  
Phyllis Zych Budka**



Maska's first program cover 1933

The Maska Dramatic Circle existed between 1933 and 1942 in Schenectady. The group had more than 160 members and over 450 patrons. They put on 55 plays in Polish, mostly at the PNA Hall on Crane Street.

If anyone has any Maska pictures or other artifacts, please let me know. Also, I need a good picture of the PNA Home on Crane Street.

Using my editorial privilege, I am filling space between articles with the Maska member list – mostly first generation Polish Americans. I guarantee that many names will be familiar to you if you grew up in Schenectady.

This is a fascinating picture of our Polish community in the 1930s!

Please send information, pictures to [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com) or call at 518 377 8734.

**MASKA MEMBERS**

Andrzejewski	Eleanor
Ausfeld	Genevieve
Ausfeld	Henry
Bachleda	Stanley
Balska	L.
Bankowski	Arthur

## The Szulinskis of Schenectady

### Part 1: Finding a Lost Great Uncle

#### Craig Siulinski

Ever since the study of my family history began in 2007, I always knew that I would eventually be visiting my grandfather's origins in Schenectady. That opportunity came during a very hot weekend in June 2013. Upon arriving at my hotel on Hamburg Street, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that one of the city's Polish cemeteries was located literally next door. This location turned out to be the final resting place of my grandfather's brother, Walter Szulinski (Fig. 1). Was it serendipity?



Fig. 1 Walter Szulinski and his wife Ann

Of course, I wanted to find out as much as I could about this man that I only knew about on paper from my years of genealogy researching. It is unfortunate that my father grew up not knowing his father's family of origin in Schenectady. Around 1926, my grandfather moved away from Schenectady and joined the Coast

Guard. He apparently changed the spelling of his surname by one letter, and married a Canadian woman in Portland, Maine. Communications between my grandfather and his family of origin in New York seemed to be non-existent from this point forward. One speculation for the family disconnect is my grandfather's decision to marry a woman who was not of the Roman Catholic faith. People who had first-hand knowledge of this situation are gone, and unless I was to find a letter or some other document which explains the true reason for the estrangement, I am left to offering a supposition using the genealogical information that I have gathered.

Earlier research, interviews from newly discovered cousins, and many records (census records, directories and obituaries) help to create a story of my grandfather's family. He had two brothers, Walter Szulinski and Joseph Szulinski, and a sister, Genowefa. His parents were named Bessie and Albert. The names, Bessie and Albert, became the Americanized versions of their Polish given names, Bronislawa and Albin. From directory records, I found the Szulinskis to be living on Paulding Street in the early 1920s. Later, they moved to Second Avenue. Bessie and Albert eventually bought a small house on St. Michael's Lane in another area of the city. Through the years, they attended two Polish churches: St. Mary's and St. Adalbert's. Visits to the parish offices led me to discover the Szulinski family plot at St. Mary's Cemetery (Fig. 2). Although no engraving was sketched on the backside of the stone, church records show that Albin and Bessie were buried there along with their son Joseph. On a flat stone next to the main stone shows the engraving in Polish reporting the early lifespan of Genowefa - 1910 to 1931 (Fig.3).

## The Szulinskis of Schenectady

### Part 1: Finding a Lost Great Uncle

#### Craig Siulinski



Fig. 2 – St. Mary's Cemetery - The Szulinski family stone



Fig. 3 - St. Mary's Cemetery – Marker of Genowefa Szulinski

Genealogists often face brick walls in their research, particularly when they limit their work to online searches. Online searches done through Ancestry.com and the Ellis Island website show that Bessie and Albert came to America in May 1901. Their Polish town of origin on the ship's manifest was not legible. A research trip to New York became crucial to finding where in Poland my ancestors emigrated. Before I went on this trip, my research came to a standstill as I was not discovering any more information about the Szulinskis of Schenectady. After I returned from my trip in June 2013, not only was the "brick wall" broken but I had met two lost Szulinski cousins, the granddaughters of Walter

Szulinski (Fig 1). That weekend I also met a local Polish expert, Phyllis Budka, who happens to be the co-editor of this newsletter. We met at St. Mary's Cemetery and shared family stories as we visited the locations of our respective ancestor stones.

Finding lost cousins and living relatives became a primary concern for me months before my Schenectady trip. From one of my ancestry blog posts came an email from Kent Smith, a former classmate of Walter's daughter, Patricia Ann Szulinski (Fig. 4). He was organizing their 50th high school reunion and wanted to locate Patricia Ann so he could extend an invitation to the event. Between the two of us, we were able to determine that she had passed away. This knowledge led me to try to make contact with any of her three daughters who were named in her obituary. Just prior to leaving my Massachusetts home that warm June weekend, I cold-called about ten people using Zabasearch, an online search engine, hoping to speak to one of Patricia Ann's daughters. Most people did not answer, so I left a few voicemails. A few hours later that night, I received a phone call from Jacki Bittner, and it quickly became apparent that I was talking to a lost cousin! It was exhilarating to be communicating with a relative that I did not know I had. Even more exciting was to meet Jacki and Stephanie, another of Patricia Ann's daughters, at a restaurant in Schenectady that June weekend; the experience made my research trip more special than can be imagined.

My primary objectives for this trip were to visit the churches, cemeteries, and former residences of my ancestors, and the city hall. Schenectady City Hall yielded mixed results. I obtained the death records of Bessie and Albert, but the birth record of

## The Szulinskis of Schenectady Part 1: Finding a Lost Great Uncle Craig Siulinski

Adam, my grandfather, was not to be found. In addition, the death records of Bessie and Albin did not reveal their Polish towns of origin; naming only "Poland, Europe" as their birth locations. Fear not though because I was soon to find other sources that would provide what I could not find through searching the city records. In Part 2 of this report, I will share these discoveries!



Fig. 5 Author Craig Siulinski with "found cousins" Stephanie Lestage and Jacki Bittner in Schenectady, June 2013



Fig. 4 Patricia Ann Szulinski's high school picture from 1966

### MASKA MEMBERS (cont'd)

Baranowski	Chester
Baranowski	Frank
Beleusz	Florentyna
Belniak	John
Bienkuski	Joseph
Bojarski	Chester
Bonczyk	William
Borkowski	Frank
Borowski	Celia
Briskie	George W. Jr.
Brzostek	Jane
Brzostowski	Irene
Brzozowski	Zygmunt
Budka	Mary
Budnick	Daniel V.
Budnick	Mrs.
Byleusz	Florence
Chantnicka	Regina
Chatnicka	Virginia
Chmielinski	Vincent
Chojnicki	Sophie
Chylinski	Stephanie
Czechowicz	Joseph

## Pulaski Day in Schenectady, New York Phyllis Zych Budka



Fig. 1 Monument to Revolutionary War Hero Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, friend of America in the Revolutionary War.

Driving past Pulaski Plaza at the intersection of Nott Terrace with State and Albany Streets in Schenectady, my thoughts do not turn to the military exploits of Revolutionary War hero Kazimierz Pulaski honored in the granite monument (Fig. 1), but rather to a lost era in my own cultural heritage, Schenectady's citizens of Polish descent. The monument, erected in the fall of 1953, was the location of annual October ceremonies honoring this Polish hero who fought for freedom in both Europe and the fledgling America, ceremonies that my family and I participated in as I was growing up.

The discovery among my Mother's keepsakes of the photo of the Pulaski Day Essay Contest I won in the fall of 1955 (Fig. 2) brought a flood of memories. Luckily, the "Gazette" caption reminded me of the long-forgotten contest topic, the poetry of Adam Mickiewicz. My sister, Elizabeth Zych Kislinger, provided another, slightly later, photo of ceremonies at Pulaski Plaza (Fig. 3). Pictured are Schenectady city and Polish community dignitaries as well as my sister (first row, far right), my cousin Marjorie Norris Brophy (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and my Grandmother Victoria Korycinski (back row, right, between flags).

**Pulaski Day in Schenectady, New York  
Phyllis Zych Budka**



Fig. 2 Pulaski Day Essay Contest Winners October 1955: Phyllis Zych (Budka), 8th grade, St. Adalbert's School, and Lawrence Ott, 8th grade, St. Mary's School. Left to Right: Rev. John Harzynski, Assistant Pastor, St. Adalbert's Church, Lawrence Ott, Schenectady Mayor Archibald Wemple, Phyllis, Unknown man, Rev. Ladislaus Guzielek, Pastor, St. Adalbert's, Unknown man. "Gazette"



Fig. 3 Pulaski Day Celebration ca. 1957

## **Pulaski Day in Schenectady, New York**

### **Phyllis Zych Budka**

These photos gave me a sense of loss for my cultural heritage that cannot be shared with my children and grandchildren. They also made me curious about the history behind the Schenectady Polish American community's efforts to commemorate Casimir Pulaski in such a prominent place in the city.

In researching the origins of "Pulaski Day Schenectady" on [fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com), I was surprised to find a "Gazette" entry from 1929:

**Anniversary of Pulaski's Death Celebrated in School Auditorium, Large Crowd Attends Exercises Honoring Polish Patriot**

A fitting climax to the exercises commemorating the 150 anniversary of the death of Count Casimir Pulaski, which have been in progress here since Thursday when Schenectadians filled the big Schenectady High School Auditorium to capacity to pay tribute to the Revolutionary War hero. (Gazette 10/14/1929 p 11)

According to a 11/16/53 "Gazette" article, the Polish Welfare Council petition to the Schenectady City Council to erect the Pulaski monument was adopted on November 15, 1948. The city of Schenectady donated \$2k toward the nearly \$15k cost of the monument. The monument is 34 feet long and 14 feet 6 inches high at the center. The General's statue is 7 feet high.

The Pulaski monument was dedicated on November 18, 1953, complete with a parade from the Polish National Alliance Home on Crane St. to the Pulaski Plaza. Representatives from Syracuse, Utica, Amsterdam, Watervliet, Cohoes, Troy, Albany and Poughkeepsie participated in the festivities, which also included a banquet.

Below are the words inscribed on the monument, words which ring true even today:

Pulaski  
Union makes valor stronger

Count Casimir Pulaski, friend of America in the Revolutionary War, distinguished himself on General George Washington's staff in the Battle of Brandywine, commissioned Brigadier General. Fought at Germantown and other battles in winter 1777-78. By resolution of Congress was authorized to form the Pulaski Legion. Mortally wounded at Savannah, Georgia, and died October 11, 1779.

To the memory of an immortal hero who gave his life in the cause of freedom and thereby left a living message to all Americans. May God grant that the liberty of mankind, which only brave souls win and only vigilance can guard, shall live on with greater vitality. Dedicated by the people of Schenectady.

This memorial made possible by Americans of Polish descent.

## Searching for Family Using Ancestry.com Bernice Izzo (cont'd)

Vera Grubala Pierman is youngest child of my Great grandparents, Franciszek and Michalina Grubala. She is the Aunt I never remember my grandmother or mother talking about. She had left Schenectady by the time my mother was born but I have pieced her life together by using Ancestry.com.

She was born on February 4, 1898. By searching Verconia [sic] Grubala , her name listed in the 1910 census, I located her Social Security Death Record. It not only listed the date and location of her death, but it also gave me her married name. Using her married name, I located her living in Chicago, Illinois. Recently, I located a record of her marriage license. She was married to Martin J. Pierman on November 22, 1920. The family is listed in the 1930 census. There were four children: Juno, Geraldine, Martin Jr. and Micheline. At a closer look, I realized that Juno was really June. When I corrected the record, a hint appeared which was a death record for June Rose Pierman. She died on September 3, 1930 and it gave me her exact birth day, June 13, 1922. After this, I lost track of Aunt Vera until her death record. She died on March 18, 1982, in Santa Barbara, California. Her Husband, Martin, died on March 9, 1985.

Ancestry cannot solve every problem, but it has been a great help to me to find the people no one talked about. Of course, it does not hurt that their last name is Grubala.

The image is a screenshot of an Ancestry.com record for the 1910 United States Federal Census. The record is for Veronica C Grubala, daughter of Frank J Grubala. The form includes fields for Name, Age in 1910, Birth Year, Birthplace, Home in 1910, Race, Gender, Relation to Head of House, Marital Status, Father's Name, Father's Birthplace, Mother's Birthplace, Neighbors, and Household Members. The household members list includes Frank J Grubala (51), Steve U Grubala (24), John F Grubala (21), Victoria M Grubala (16), Celia G Grubala (14), and Veronica C Grubala (12). The source information is cited as 1910 Census Place: Schenectady Ward 6, Schenectady, New York. The National Archives logo is visible at the bottom left of the record.

1910 United States Federal Census		
Name:	Veronica C Grubala [Veronia C Grubala]	
Age in 1910:	12	
Birth Year:	abt 1898	
Birthplace:	New York	
Home in 1910:	Schenectady Ward 6, Schenectady, New York	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Female	
Relation to Head of House:	Daughter	
Marital Status:	Single	
Father's Name:	Frank J Grubala	
Father's Birthplace:	Germany	
Mother's Birthplace:	Germany	
Neighbors:		
Household Members:		
	Name	Age
	Frank J Grubala	51
	Steve U Grubala	24
	John F Grubala	21
	Victoria M Grubala	16
	Celia G Grubala	14
	Veronica C Grubala	12

Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Schenectady Ward 6, Schenectady, New York; Roll: T024\_1070; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 0192; FHL microfilm: 1375944.

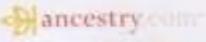
Source Information: Ancestry.com, 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA; Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES.DIG

Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T024, 1,758 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the

## Searching for Family Using Ancestry.com Bernice Izzo (cont'd)

cestry.com - Cook County, Illinois, Marriages Index, 1871-1920 Page 1 of 1

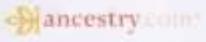
  
Cook County, Illinois, Marriages Index, 1871-1920

Name:	Vesa Gilbert
Age:	22
Gender:	Female
Birth Year:	abt 1898
Marriage Type:	Marriage
Marriage Date:	22 Nov 1920
Marriage Place:	Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Spouse Name:	Martin J. Pierman
Spouse Age:	21
Spouse Gender:	Male
FHL Film Number:	1030744

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com, Cook County, Illinois, Marriages Index, 1871-1920 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.  
Original data:  
"Illinois, Cook County Marriages, 1871-1920." Index, FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2010. Illinois Department of Public Health records. "Marriage Records, 1871-present." Division of Vital Records, Springfield, Illinois.

**Descriptions:**  
This database contains an index of details extracted from Cook County, Illinois, marriage records.

Ancestry.com - 1930 United States Federal Census Page 1 of 2

  
1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	Vera Pierman
Gender:	Female
Birth Year:	abt 1898
Birthplace:	New York
Race:	White
Home in 1930:	Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Map of Home:	
Marital Status:	Married
Relation to Head of House:	Wife
Spouse's Name:	Martin J Pierman
Father's Birthplace:	Germany
Mother's Birthplace:	Germany

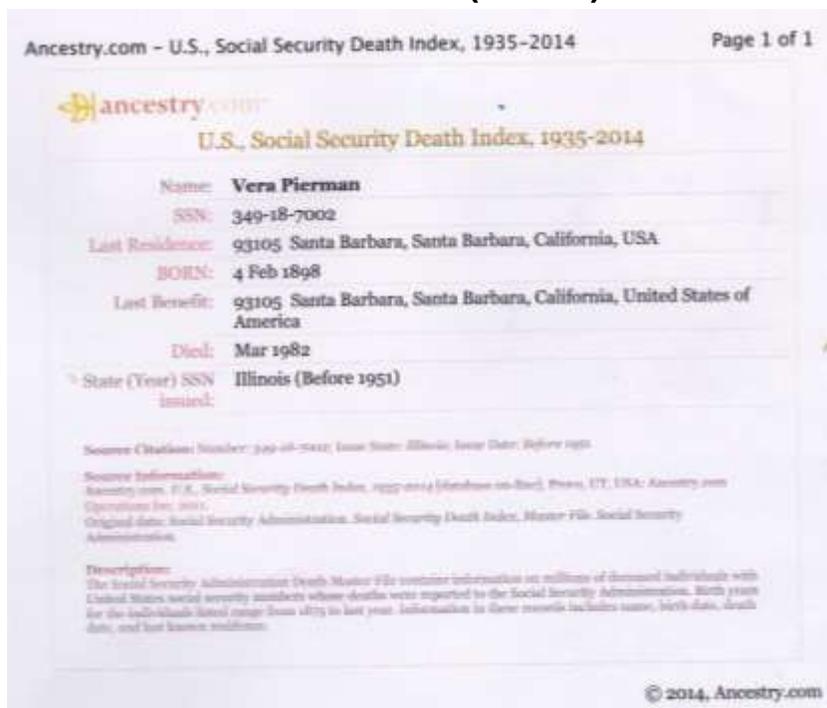
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Martin J Pierman</a>	31
	<a href="#">Vera Pierman</a>	32
	<a href="#">Juno R Pierman</a>	7
	<a href="#">Geraldine Pierman</a>	5
	<a href="#">Martin Pierman</a>	3
		[3
		9/12]
	<a href="#">Michaeline Pierman</a>	0
		[2/12]
	<a href="#">Willard Pierman</a>	24

**Source Citation:** Year: 1930; Census Place: Chicago, Cook, Illinois; Roll: 498; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 2775; Image: 4 in FHL microfilm 2330275.

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.  
Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. 700k, 1,687 rolls.

**Descriptions:**  
The 1930 Census contains records for approximately 123 million Americans. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including:

## Searching for Family Using Ancestry.com Bernice Izzo (cont'd)



Maska Members (cont'd)		Godlewski	Jadwiga / Hedwig
Czyszczonek	J.	Godlewski	Reggie
Czyszczonek	Theodore	Golembiowski	Raymond
Czyzewski	Joseph	Golembiowski	Stanley
Czyzewski	Mary	Golembiowski	Wanda
Deptola	Victor	Gontarski	Rozalia / Rose
Deptula	Bronislaw / Bernie	Gorski	Casimira
Dlugosinski	Jane	Grabowski	Stanley
Dmochowski	Agnes	Grodkiewicz	Wadsworth
Dombkowski	Wilma	Gurzynski	Edward
Drapala	Joseph	Gutowska	Sabina
Drzewczynski	Alice	Harasimowicz	Francis
Dzierwa	Aleksander / Alexander	Hennel	Edward
Dzierwa	Frank	Hennel	Henry
Dziuba	Jean	Hennel	Wanda
Dziuba	Marianna / Mary / Marja	Jablonski	John
Dziuba	Helen	Jankowski	Pauline
Fall	Josephine	Jozefowicz	Henrietta
Garrut	Miss J.	Kacinski/Kaczynski	Stephen
Garrut	Wanda	Kaminski	Helen
Giniecka	Mrs. S.	Karpinski	Stanley
Giniecka	Regina	Kilian	Helen
Giniecki	Clementine	Kilian	Thaddeus
Giniecki	Stanley	Kilian	Zygmunt
Godlewski	Edward	Kleysmyt	Henry
Godlewski	Joseph	Klimas	Daniel

## Maska Members (cont'd)

Klonowski	Monica	Repka	Edward
Kopec	Anthony	Roiski	
Kopec	Eugene	Romanowski	Joseph
Korycinski	Alexander	Rudowski	Gladys
Korycinski	Sophie	Rudowski	J. Czeslaw / Chester / Joseph C.
Korycinski	Wanda	Sarnowski	Arthur
Krystofik	Adam	Sekowski	Lucian
Kuty	Eugene	Sekowski	Walter
Kwiecinski	Edward	Sekowski	Zenon
Kwiecinski	Steven	Siaskiewicz	Clementine
Lake	Patricia	Skrzynski	Stefan
Laniewski	Casimir	Stelmach	Genevieve
Laniewski	John	Szatkowski	Genowefa / Genevieve
Lemanski	Helen	Szumachowski	Bernard
Lemanski	Irene	Szumigala	Vera
Lewkowicz	Henry	Szwergel	Irene
Lewkowicz	Stefania / Stephanie	Szymanowski	Julia
Lisowicz	Joanna / Joan	Szymanska	Waleria / Valerie
Mackiewicz	Agnes	Szymanski	Carl
Mackiewicz	Florence	Szymanski	Karol
Marcinek	Leo	Szymanski	Marja / Mary
Moros	Wladyslawa / Gladys	Toniszewski	Mrs. Eleanor
Mozejko	George	Tupacz	Jane
Nisiobencki	Jean	Tyminska	Eugenia
Noskowiak	Theodore	Tytko	Michael
Nowicki	Alice	Tytko	Roberta
Nowicki	Irene	Wanik	Liljanna / Lillian
Okonski	Louis	Wienclawski	Henry
Okonski	Pearl	Wisniewska	Helen
Olkowski	Ryszard / Richard	Wisniewski	Zygmunt
Olszewski	Klement / Clement	Witkowski	Irena / Irene
Olwert	Chester	Wojtulewicz	John
Ozarowski	Matthew	Wojtulewicz	Stanislawa / Statia
Patka	Stefania	Wrazen	Jane
Penichter	Jessie	Zablocki	Sadie
Penichter	Miss C.	Zborowski	Mary
Petera	Stanley	Zielanis	Gertrude
Petera / Peters/Pitera	Nellie	Zielanis	John
Pieszczoch	Agnes	Zielanis	Mrs. R.
Piurowska	Eleonora	Zielinska	Irene
Plath	V.W.	Zolad	Walter
Platt	Wladyslaw / Victor	Zych	Matthew
Plocharczyk	Marion	Zych	Stanley
Plocharczyk	Stanley		
Plocharczyk	Val		
Podbielski	Andrew		
Rekucki	Arlene		

## **Maska Names**

### **Phyllis Zych Budka**

As I did the data entry for the names of Maska members and Patrons (nearly 500), I became aware of an interesting language transition from Maska's early years to the late 1930s. Early on, the Polish spellings of first names appeared in the programs and news articles. Later, English spellings appeared. An early Maska newsletter was produced on a typewriter with Polish fonts which soon gave way to the standard American ones. Before long, first names became "Americanized," and surnames lost those Polish language hooks and hats. Today, some of us might be surprised at the sound of our surnames pronounced by a relative in Poland.

### **Three Project Projects!**

#### Project 1

Consider donating hard copy books/booklets of family genealogy, church and fraternal organization anniversary mementos to the Schenectady County Historical Society. To initiate the donation process, contact Melissa Tacke, Librarian/Archivist, who will offer information, answer questions, clarify the procedure, document the gift appropriately, and refer people elsewhere if necessary.

Melissa Tacke, Grems-Doolittle Library, Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305

Phone: 518-374-0263 [www.schenectadyhistorical.org](http://www.schenectadyhistorical.org)

Many thanks to Sandra Chmielinski Dimke, whose excellent book, "A Look Back, A family history / genealogy of the Chmielinski, Rykowski, Gwiazdowski, Purzycki, Smolinski, Grzyboski, Kwiatkowski, and Grudzinski families" inspired this Project.

#### Project 2

Collect digital photos taken before 1950 of First Communion, Graduation, Wedding or other significant life events from now until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Include name(s), event, place and date. Send to Phyllis Zych Budka at

[abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com)

We will collate and publish them electronically as a group after next January.

#### Project 3

Barbara Pyzanowski Bentley, a Schenectady native who now lives in Texas, writes: "There is a website [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) that has built a huge global database of burial information. It can include gravestone photographs, personal photographs, birth and burial data. The concept is to capture the burial information for genealogy researchers and before nature or vandals destroy the gravestones. So many of our Polish ancestors are buried in St Mary's Cemetery and St. Adalbert's Cemetery. Over 1000 names have been entered into this website for St Mary's Cemetery, but they are names only with no gravestone photographs. It would be a great contribution if someone would photograph the gravestones in either or both these Polish cemeteries and load them to [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). Since I live in Texas, it's not possible for me to go there and take the gravestone photos. BUT if someone was interested in volunteering to take gravestone photos, they could mail me a disc of photographs and I would gladly volunteer to do the computer work of uploading the pictures to the website. This would also divide the work load, so it would not be too much for one person to take on. It's all about preserving the links to our past."

Enter [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) website and, under "Find Graves," click "Search 112 million grave records" to get search form. To see two of Barbara Bentley's entries, enter one of the following in the form name fields: Antoniette Halas Pyzanowski or Anthoni J. Pyzanowski. Barbara Pyzanowski Bentley can be contacted at:

[bentley4@satx.rr.com](mailto:bentley4@satx.rr.com)

**St. Adalbert's Polish American Festival  
August 16 – 17, 2014**



**Carolyn & Ted Kozubal host festival guests**



**Bernice Izzo & Phyllis Zych Budka at the Project tent**



**Left to right: Helen Saunders , Carole McCarthy & Phyllis Zych Budka chat at the Project tent**



**Festival Exhibit**

**Photos courtesy of Bernice Izzo and Phyllis Zych Budka**