

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

July 2016 Vol. 3 No. 3

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

Please share your family history, help pass the (electronic) word. The next deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, then January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. To submit your family story, pictures, etc, e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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.

**Save the Date: Saint Adalbert's Dozynki Festival – Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Our Project will have an exhibit. Stop by and say "Hello!"

**Thanks to Bernice Izzo and Carole McCarthy for their help in editing this newsletter!**

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### Genealogy Words in Eight Languages

Thanks to Carole McCarthy for the information and link below.

<https://christinageorgeresearch.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/genealogywords2.pdf>

Other categories include Relationships, Religion, Census, Archives and Immigration, Occupations, Medical, Countries, etc.

#### Common Genealogical Terms in Eight Languages

Version 21 March 2015

ENGLISH	GERMAN	POLISH	HUNGARIAN	LATIN	CZECH	SLOVAK	UKRAINIAN
<b>CALENDAR</b>							
<b>Date</b>	datum	data	dátum	datum	datum, letopočet	dátum	дата
<b>Day</b>	tag	dzień	nap	die	den	deň	день
<b>Month</b>	monat	miesiąc	hónap	mensis	měsíc	mesiac	місяць
<b>Months</b>	monate	miesiący	hónap	mensibus	Měsíce	mesiace	місяці
<b>Year</b>	jahr	rok, lat	év	anno, andedictus	rok	rok	рік
<b>Years</b>	jahre	lata	évek	annis	léta	leta	роки
<b>January</b>	Januar	styczeń, stycznia	január	Januarius	leden	január	січень
<b>February</b>	Februar	luty, lutego	február	Februarius	únor	február	лютий
<b>March</b>	März	marzec, marca	március	Martius	březen	marec	березень
<b>April</b>	April	kwiecień, kwietnia	április	Aprilis, Aprilis	duřben	april	квітень
<b>May</b>	Mai	maj, maja	május	Maius	květen	máj	травень
<b>June</b>	Juni	czerwiec, czerwca	júnus	Junius	červen	jún	червень
<b>July</b>	Juli	lipiec, lipca	július	Julius	červenec	júl	липень
<b>August</b>	August	sierpień, sierpnia	augustus	Augustus	srpen	august	серпень
<b>September</b>	September	wrzesień, września	szeptember	September	zářij	septembra	вересень
<b>October</b>	Oktober	październik, października	október	October, Octobris	říjen	október	жовтень
<b>November</b>	November	listopad, listopada	november	November, Novembris	listopad	november	листопад
<b>December</b>	Dezember	grudzień, grudnia	december	December, Decembris	prosinec	december	грудень
<b>PERSONAL INFO.</b>							
<b>Age</b>	alter	wiek	életkor	aetatis, aetas	věk	vek	вік
<b>Birthdate</b>	geburtsdatum	data urodzenia	születésnap		datum narození	dátum narodenia	дата народження
<b>Female</b>	weiblich	żeńska	női	fecunda	ženský	Samice	жінка
<b>Gender</b>	geschlecht	pleć	neme	sexus	pohlaví	rod	Пол
<b>Given Name</b>	vorname	imie, imiona	utónév	nomen	křestní, jméno	rodné meno	ім'я

# THE POLISH FAIR

Event to Begin This Evening in the  
Centre Street Opera House.

## FOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

It will Continue All Next Week—Parade  
Before the Doors Open This Evening  
--The Order of Parade and  
Line of March.

The first grand fair and bazar of St. Mary's Polish church will open tonight at the Centre street opera house and will continue throughout next week. The members of the church and their friends have been making preparations for the event for many weeks, devoting considerable time and activity to the cause and the result doubtless will be that the fair will be highly successful.

This evening there will be a parade previous to the opening of the doors of the opera house.

The following organizations will be in line: St. Mary's Men's society, St. Mary's Ladies' society; Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Joseph's Union society, St. Joseph's Lancers society and the Polish National Alliance.

The order of the parade will be as follows:

First division--Grand Marshal, President of the Fair and presidents of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's societies, Polish band, St. Mary's society and St. Joseph's societies.

Second division--Polish National Alliance, L. N. P. Club.

The line of march will be through Centre street to State, to Jay, to Union, to Ferry, to State to Centre street, to Opera house.

The programme for this evening is as follows: Opening ceremony by president of the fair committee, B. Lopuszynski; "The Eve Before St. Andrew's Day," standard popular play in two acts, with songs and dances, given by St. Cecylia society (Polish); "Sambo's Acting Triumph," by a local team in all latest specialties; "Emmet's Yodling Songs," by Mr. Gus Derra.

The committee in charge of the fair has been especially active and has spared no pains to make the fair one of the most attractive of similar events that have been held in this city for years. The officers of the committee are: Mr. Lopuszynski, president; Mr. Guer, vice-president; Mr. Kazyaka, 1st secretary; Mr. Duszynska, 2nd secretary; Mr. Gapkrynska, 1st treasurer; Mr. Wecrynski, 2nd treasurer; Mr. Kurpawski, grand marshal; Mr. Knecek marshal.

The fair will close next Saturday evening and there doubtless will be a large attendance every evening.

Gazette 1899 September 30 Page 5

Thanks to Robert Sullivan for this article – an early fundraiser for St. Mary's Church. Does anyone recognize the names of the people mentioned? Many are probably misspelled.

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1945-John and Katherine's 50th Anniversary photo in Schenectady.

1898 My grandfather Joseph Brozyna's baptism in June with my great grandparents John Brozyna and Katherine (Rajska) Brozyna in Glen Campbell, Indiana County, PA.

My great grandfather, John Brozyna, was born on May 6, 1871, in Zmigrod in the Province of Galicia (now called Nowy Zmigrod) which was then part of the Austrian Empire. I have seen part of this area of southeastern Poland with my own eyes and walked its roads and streets. Galicia was a province of rolling hills, farms and forests. It somewhat reminds one of Bavaria in Germany. Galicia was bordered on the west by the city of Krakow and the Carpathian Mountains on the south. It stretched east into what is now the Ukraine. Research indicates that in 1880 Zmigrod was a small town of 2,500 people who relied on agriculture, manual trades and the lumber industry. Just like the rest of the Empire, this rural region in what is now southeastern Poland was ethnically diverse and unfortunately there could be some tension between people of different backgrounds. The town was just over 50% Jewish and sometimes Poles and Jews had difficulties co-existing. The Poles were Roman Catholic and at times there was friction with Ukrainians and other ethnic minorities who were of the Eastern Orthodox religion. However, regardless of ethnic background, all people in this region had to work hard to maintain only a very modest standard of living.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>For a Jewish perspective on the region's history see "Wonderful Stories From Zmigrod", found at <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/zmigrod/Zmigrodstories.htm> by Phyllis Kramer.

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According to research performed by Polish genealogist, Aleksandra Kacprzak (who is also the Polish Consultant for Ancestry.Com), John (Joannes) Brozyna's parents were Carolus (Karol) Brozyna (1847-1882) and Marianne Poliwka (about 1845-1877). John was the first child born to the couple and they lived at house number 148 near the town square, close to the middle of the village, not far from the Catholic Church. Before John was two, his brother, Pawel, was born and baby Leon was born when John was five. However, disaster soon struck the family. Late in 1876 both of John's brothers died and in 1877 his mother Marianne died as well. What horrible grief John must have endured! Certainly John would have been cared for by different members of his parents' extended families in Zmigrod during the day while his father Karol was working. John's grandparents Katarzyna Fruzynska, Antoni Poliwka and Katarzyna Rzeszutkiewicz were still alive. (Grandfather Tomasz Brozyna had died in 1863.) However, John must still have felt very much alone without his mother and brothers.

Karol Brozyna married his second wife Marianna Brozyna (Brozyna was her maiden name) in 1878. They had three children: Tecla in 1879, Adalbertus Thomas in 1881, and Francisca in 1882. However, both of the younger half-siblings died as babies. Then in 1882, John's father Karol died when John was only 11 years old. His step mother would have been hard pressed to care for herself in her grief-stricken state. Then she began entertaining men and had two illegitimate children in 1886 and 1889. John most certainly would have moved into a foster home.

There can be no doubt we have the correct name of John Brozyna's parents in Poland. We have multiple documents establishing his birth date (May 6, 1871) and birthplace (Nowy Zmigrod, Galicia, Austria, now Poland). The only child in the Zmigrod Parish Church records born on that date is our Joannes (Jan or John) Brozyna to Karol and Marianne. But what are we to make of the January 11, 1946 death certificate on file in Schenectady, NY in which Katherine (Rajska) Brozyna specifies "John Brozyna and Unknown" as parents for her husband John? Either Katherine was in error when she filled the document out or John thought of his foster father as his true father and that is the name he had shared with Katherine over the years. The "John Brozyna" referred to here could be Karol Brozyna's full brother Joannes Brozyna who lived close by in Zmigrod. He may have taken young John in as a foster child after his parents died. No adoption papers have been found and this is only a theory. John may have been so overcome by a sense of abandonment by his mother who died when he was age 6 and his step-mother that he never spoke their names to Katherine, hence "Unknown". We will never know for certain but this is a plausible explanation reconciling the documents.

As John Brozyna approached age 20, it became apparent that he had only limited prospects in his homeland. John's relatives had experienced a modest degree of upward social mobility but there were no guarantees for an orphan like John. Wedding Banns in Nowy Zmigrod Church records indicate John's maternal grandfather Antoni Poliwka was a butcher and his father, Piotr Poliwka, was a peasant farmer who worked a tiny parcel of land. John's great, great grandfather Szymon Fruzynska was a weaver. John's paternal grandfather, Tomasz Brozyna, worked as a tailor. We do not know Karol Brozyna's trade but one thing is certain: John inherited little money from his father. Oral history has it that John made a living as a traveling peddler who sold religious articles from a wagon just prior to his departure for America in 1891. Economic hard times forced thousands of Poles to move to the United States and young John was no exception. It is interesting to note

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that despite the fact that Poland had ceased to exist on the map of Europe in 1815, John Brozyna still considered himself Polish when he entered the United States.

According to John Brozyna's United States passport application in 1912, he arrived in the United States on one of the Red Star Line's passenger ships out of Antwerp and landed in New York City on June 17, 1892. This date is probably an error as his arrival is not recorded in the Ellis Island records which began in 1892. Therefore, the date of June 14, 1891 that John gave on his earlier Petition For Naturalization (approved in 1907) is probably more likely to be accurate although we can't find him in the Castle Garden records either. Oral history has it that he then joined relatives who were siblings of each other, perhaps a brother and sisters, in the coal region of Pennsylvania (Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties).

The identities of these Brozyna relatives had been very difficult to ascertain as there were several Brozynas in Pennsylvania at that time in their twenties and thirties. By far the most likely candidates were Joseph, Catherine and Theresa Brozyna. Their parents were Frank and Tekla Brozyna and their birthplace was Zmigrod. Their parents remained in Galicia. Joseph was born in 1871 and immigrated about 1891 or 1892. Catherine was born in 1867 and came over in 1886. Theresa was born in 1873 and immigrated to the US. in 1895. (Source: Ancestry.com Ancharski - Anczarski Family Tree, posted Jan. 30, 2013.) Careful study of the Nowy Zmigrod Church records in August, 2013 confirmed that these three Brozynas were cousins of John Brozyna. (John's great grandparents on his mother's side, Szymon Fruzynska and Zofia Nowak had a daughter, Katarzyna Fruzynska who was one of John's grandmothers. They had another daughter, Malgorzata Fruzynska, who married Walenty Brozyna in 1832 and who gave birth to Franciszek (Frank) Brozyna in about 1830. He married Tekla Brozyna in 1853 and they gave birth to Joseph, Catherine and Theresa Brozyna who John joined in PA for several years in the 1890s. They were John's cousins. The mystery of how the PA Brozynas were related to John Brozyna and hence to the Schenectady Brozynas has been solved!

After arriving in PA late in 1891 or early 1892, John lived in Jeansville, a small hamlet in coal country just south of Hazleton in Luzerne County near the border with Carbon and Schuylkill Counties. He worked as a laborer but was learning the skills that would someday qualify him as a machinist. In those days a coal miner could make about \$12.50 a week<sup>2</sup> whereas a laborer would only make ten dollars a week when there was work. The work was long, hard and sometimes dangerous. For instance, in 1891, 14 men died in a famous coal mine accident in Jeansville. There was tension between ethnic groups and between workers and management. Despite all this, there was great competition for these jobs among the immigrants. The men needed the work to live.

John and Katherine Rajska were married in the hamlet of Pleasant Hill in Mahanoy Township, Schuylkill County on June 2, 1895. Katherine had arrived from Galicia in 1894 and in her months as a single girl she lived in a tiny mining village called Honey Brook in Schuylkill County (just north of McAdoo) and worked as a servant girl. She probably

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<sup>2</sup>See "Polish Miners in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania", by Sister M. Accursia, Bern, OSF; at [http://polishroots.org//Research/History/luzerne\\_penn/tabid/232/Default..](http://polishroots.org//Research/History/luzerne_penn/tabid/232/Default..) Original article published in 1946.)

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continued this work after the marriage for at least a time. For two or three years the young couple tried to establish economic roots in Luzerne County.

However, John sought greener pastures for his machinist skills about 1897. The town of Glen Campbell in Indiana County, PA was experiencing a minor boom as new lumber companies were hiring, as were the existing coal companies. The town was located in the rugged country west of Altoona and north of Johnstown but it was serviced by two railroads and there must have been the promise of work. John and Katherine left the emotional support of their Brozyna cousins and headed to western PA. My grandfather, Joseph Brozyna, was born there on October 28, 1898 (Petition for Naturalization). However, the promised work must have dried up suddenly and the little family had no choice but to move again. They headed for Schenectady, NY in the middle of the winter, arriving there on Feb. 20, 1899.

However, they kept in touch with some of their PA relatives until the late 1930s. I have a photo postcard which shows Cousin Joseph Brozyna proudly standing in front of his butcher wagon with what looks like one of his eight children holding the reins of their horses, probably in Luzerne County, PA about 1910. It's significant to note that John Brozyna learned some basic butcher skills, named his first born Joseph and kept contact with this man. We are researching the possibility that Cousin Joseph Brozyna (the butcher) immigrated to the US on the same ship as John in 1891. Undoubtedly, they were close.



~1910 Cousin Joseph Brozyna and son, Luzerne County, PA

Between 1900 and 1920 the population of Schenectady, NY exploded. General Electric and the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) were hiring both skilled and unskilled laborers by the thousands and the Polish and Italian neighborhoods in the city expanded rapidly. Early in 1899 (and well before 1902 when Bertha Brozyna was born), John Brozyna moved his family to Schenectady in search of a better future. In 1907 both John (Naturalization Papers dated June 3) and Katherine (who immigrated to the U.S. in 1894) became naturalized citizens (see also the 1920 Census). Their exact original living location in Schenectady is uncertain as they were not recorded in the 1900 Census. John's Naturalization Petition recites that the family lived at 261 Davis Terrace. The 1910 Census (in which they are recorded under the spelling "Bruzina") indicates they rented 168 Davis Terrace and had taken in a boarder, a 40 year old Polish immigrant named

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John Skalski, who was a laborer. By the 1915 NYS Census, they had moved to a flat at 309 Cutler Street in another Polish neighborhood in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. John worked as a machinist at the “Electric Works” (GE) during the early part of those years. Katherine’s profession was housewife.

On July 30, 1912, John signed a passport application (under the name John Brozena) in order to travel out of the country for a period of time not to exceed three months. Almost immediately thereafter he left on an urgent mission, apparently traveling alone. We can assume with a high degree of certainty he was bound for Galicia due to the illness or death of someone close to him, perhaps a foster parent. He returned Sept. 12, 1912 on the steamer SS President Grant out of Hamburg through New York after a 13 day return trip. Based on travel times of the day, he could not have spent more than a week in Zmigrod. What would his emotions have been to have seen relatives and people he had not seen for 20 years knowing he would never see them again? What memories did he have of his long deceased parents and siblings? We will never know. (Oral history has it that upon his return John used part of a modest inheritance he received on the trip to purchase a gold Elgin pocket watch which he gave to his son, Joseph, as a Christmas gift when he turned 15.) This passport application confirms John’s birth date, home town, immigration date, naturalization application date and includes a physical description. He was 5’7”, had a small mouth, low chin, dark brown hair, fair complexion, long face, normal nose, blue eyes and medium forehead. He was 41 years old. (US Passport Applications 1795-1925, Ref. Apps Jan 2 1906-Mar. 31, 1925 1912-14 Roll 0168 Certificates 79964-80811 23 July 1912-09 Aug 1912.)

Oral history has it that sometime prior to 1915 tragedy struck the Brozyna Family. Whooping Cough and other illnesses killed three of their children. In the 1910 Census, a son Barney, aged 7, and daughter Annie, 11 months old, are listed in addition to Joseph. However, Bertha was omitted from the Census and according to the Saint Adalbert’s Church records in Schenectady and subsequent census data and city records, it is clear there never was a Barney Brozyna. The 1910 Census form indicated a total of seven children had been born to the family and that three were living. Therefore, four children had died prior to May 4, 1910. By the 1915 NY State Census, Annie had also died and had disappeared from the record, bringing the total of deceased children to five. The church files, which begin in 1903, record the births and deaths of three Brozyna children within this family: Mary (July 2, 1905-Dec. 26, 1906), Michael (August 3, 1907-April 17, 1908) and Anna (March 30, 1909-Jan. 2, 1911). Schenectady City Clerk records confirm the deaths of three Brozyna children in Schenectady from 1899-1915. Mary’s short life is also recorded on John’s Naturalization application. Anna (Annie’s) Brozena’s death certificate (a/k/a Bronislawa Brozena) indicates she died on Dec. 31, 1910, of Pneumonia caused by Whooping Cough. Think of the pain endured by John and Katherine as they held their dying children on Christmas and New Years Eve! I think this explains the somber faces that appear in all the photographs of John and Katherine throughout their lives. The good health of Joseph and Bertha and births of Helen in 1914 and Walter in 1919 (when Katherine was probably 40) were not enough to remove their pain and sense of loss.

There were probably two more little children who died in Luzerne County, PA and/or Indiana County, PA between 1896 and 1898 but their identities have proven elusive so far. The Catholic Church records in Glen Campbell, PA do not begin until 1903, which is

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four years after the Brozyna Family left for Schenectady. Indiana County, PA Death Records do not contain the name of any Brozynas in their 1893-1905 volume. As of December 11, 2013, no records of our deceased Brozyna children have been found in the Luzerne County Death Records. Perhaps these children were still-born or born prematurely and died without doctors present and no official records were made of these unnamed babies. This was common in those days in country coal mining towns. However, I still hope to identify these children in the future if it is possible.

By 1920, the John Brozyna Family as we know it was complete. The 1920 Census indicates John, Katherine, Joseph, Bertha, Helen and Walter moved down the block to 422 Cutler Street in Schenectady. Although a machinist could earn more money than a laborer, John does not appear to be working for either of the two large employers in the city at that time. (He almost certainly lost his job at General Electric when he left for six weeks to travel to Poland in 1912.) He gives his place of employment as a “steel shop”, so he may well have been earning less than his counterparts at GE or ALCO at this time. In order to supplement his income, John opened a small neighborhood corner grocery market in the 400 block of Cutler Street, which was very common in the days of daily shopping prior to home refrigeration. Family oral history has it that this store was only a very modest success. The family also took in a boarder, John Dakter, who was a 52 year old Polish immigrant who entered the country in 1915. The older children still lived at home and were expected to contribute financially to the family. This led to some friction between John, Katherine and Joseph who, although a hard worker, also wished to pursue his interests in baseball and football. Joseph’s athletic activities ended upon his marriage to Leola Wtodarczak in 1923 and the two of them lived in John’s household briefly (1925 NYS Census) and contributed financially. The family had increasing financial needs and was taking conservative, traditional steps to expand its economic prospects. Sometime in the 1920s, John and Katherine managed to purchase a duplex at 1913/1915 Osterlitz Ave. in the Bellevue section, with a stated value of \$2,500. Helen eventually lived in the flat upstairs.

John Brozyna’s involvement in his grocery store began after 1920 and was over by 1930 as the activity is not recorded in either Census. John lists his 1930 profession as “laborer-electric, refrigeration company” (1930 Census). With the Great Depression setting in and approaching 58 years of age, John’s work status and earning power had deteriorated. Also, by 1930 the older children had moved out and were probably no longer contributing financially at the same levels. John was not in a position to assist Joseph when he sought funds to open his own meat market. Walter, who probably acquired his initial skills as a machinist from John, continued to live with John and Katherine right on through the 1940s and contributed financially to the family.

John was a thin man of medium height who always dressed up for his photographs. He was quiet and probably somewhat of an introvert. (Due to the deaths and family tragedies in his life, this is understandable.) He had no formal education but could read, write and speak English (Census Reports). He was Roman Catholic like most Polish people and belonged to St. Adalbert’s Church. He attended church every Sunday. Although he lived for years in Schenectady’s 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, which was a hotbed for political reform and a Socialist Party stronghold from 1911- 1922, John does not appear to have been active politically.

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John passed away due to heart problems on January 11, 1946 at the age of 74 years, 8 months.

Katherine (Katarzyna Rajska) Brozyna (Nov. 28, 1880-June 10, 1954)

Katherine (Rajska) Brozyna was born in Galicia, Poland in 1880 and came to the U.S. in 1894. We do not know the identity of her mother but as of 2013 we believe her father was John Rajski (see Katherine's 1954 death certificate). He remained in Galicia. Since we do not currently possess documentation of her exact birthplace, we were unable to find detailed genealogical records in Poland. The possibility exists that her family was from Nowy Targ, a city located about 50 miles Southeast of Krakow and about 70 miles West of John Brozyna's hometown of Zmigrod. I base this speculation on the fact that Katherine kept among her important papers a photograph of the renovated Saint Anna's Church of Nowy Targ and a description of the history of that church prepared upon the rededication of the church after renovations in 1903. It may well have been mailed to her by her relatives in Poland. This is a strong lead worth exploring with our Polish genealogist. Regarding US research, I was only able to find a couple Rajsakis in the mid-Atlantic region during that time and there is no obvious connection to Katherine. Rajski remains a rare name in both Poland and America and her ancestors have not been identified as of the time this report is written.

Katherine was about 15 when she entered the United States in 1894. Documentation has not been located as to her point of entry into the US. Oral history indicates it may have been Philadelphia if not New York. In all likelihood, she misrepresented her age as 19 upon entering the country as that is what she did on her 1895 marriage license application and early Census documents. This was probably done to convince authorities she was old enough to work and old enough to marry without formal parental consent. Beginning with the 1915 NY State Census, she appears to have been truthful about her age (within a two year range-1878/1880) through the 1940 Census with the exception (for some unknown reason) of the 1925 NY State Census. The 1880 year of birth on her 1954 death certificate would make her 40 when Walt Brozyna was born, not 44 or 45 as she would have been if she were 19 upon arrival.

We were able to locate the marriage license ledger for John and Katherine on line on The Latter Day Saints Site but the full details of their June 2, 1895 marriage in Pleasant Hill, Mahanoy Township, Schuylkill County, PA were only revealed when her granddaughter discovered their marriage certificate among a stash of Katherine's personal documents which were kept hidden in a dresser owned by her mother, Helen. Since both she and John were from Galicia and Katherine was married so soon after arriving in the United States, there is a possibility that their families in Poland arranged their marriage. We have no record of her in the 1900 Census. Their first child, Joseph, was born in PA in June, 1898 and they moved to Schenectady, NY early in 1899. She was naturalized in 1907 by virtue of John Brozyna's successful application.

Katherine (sometimes spelled "Catherine" and sometimes spelled "Katie") had no formal schooling and could not read or speak English (Census Records). She believed in traditional Polish ways. For instance, she insisted that Joseph's selection of a wife had to be approved by his parents-another matter of friction. Although she could be tender with grandchildren, her demeanor with the world at large was apparently affected by the tragedy of losing five young children to Whooping Cough and other illnesses prior to 1915

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as discussed earlier. Considering the fact that her daughter Mary died the day after Christmas in 1906 and her daughter Anna died on New Year's Eve, 1910, it is easy to speculate she was less than joyful over the holidays.

Her profession was listed as housewife (Census records). We do not know if she helped out in John's corner market.

Oral history tells us she was a Roman Catholic who attended church every Sunday at St. Adalbert's Church. She was short and somewhat stout in her older years. She did not voice her political affiliations. She was a good cook who concentrated exclusively on Polish dishes and she appreciated guests who eat a lot. During the 1930s and 1940s Katherine kept chickens behind the house in order to supplement the table with eggs. She and John had a pet Chow dog that was not all that friendly. Although they did not play musical instruments, they had a player piano in the parlor and they enjoyed listening to the discs play traditional music.

Katherine died on June 10, 1954 in Schenectady at the age of 73 years, 6 months due to heart problems. (Her age of death in church records of 79 is inconsistent with the death certificate and probably harkens back to the date of birth Katherine was using prior to 1915.) She is buried next to her husband John in St. Adalbert's Cemetery on Hamburg Street in Schenectady near the two big trees approaching the southern gate.

John and Katherine Brozyna's children lived long lives as Schenectady or Saratoga County residents. My grandfather, Joseph Brozyna (June 28, 1898-Nov. 19 1978) married Leola Wtodarczak (Dec. 7, 1902-Jan. 28, 1999) in 1923. They had a successful career in the retail meat business. During the 1930s and 1940s, my grandfather ran the Central Market at 2600 Guilderland Ave. (Central Markets were eventually rebranded as Price Chopper by Golub Corporation.) They had two sons, Paul (my uncle) and Harold (my father).

Bertha Brozyna (Aug. 21, 1902-March, 1980) married Vincent (John) Sienka (April 5, 1901-Jan. 8, 1995). He was a welder at GE for decades. They had three children: Adeline, Lorraine and Jerome. Helen Brozyna (Dec. 20, 1914-April 3, 2006) married Harold McChesney (Jan. 2, 1912-Nov.7, 1957) and they had two children: William and JoAnn. Walter Brozyna (May 27, 1919-June 7, 1998) worked as a machinist at GE for decades and married Mary Thornton (April 3, 1919-Dec. 2, 1997). They had two sons: Mark and Michael. The Brozyna siblings lived within 25 miles of where they grew up. They remained supportive of each other throughout their lives.

## Ciocia Stasia's Scrapbook Phyllis Zych Budka

At long last, I finally feel relieved of the crushing burden of family scrapbooks and photo albums stored in my attic. Oh, they're still there, but I have a new attitude toward them. My very first book has just been published, "The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933 – 1942)." This book is based on a scrapbook my father, Stanley Zych, started in 1933 and my parents kept right up to the group's reunion in 1980. My four year effort to scan, translate, retype and gather information had a surprising effect on me: I had the opportunity to "meet" my parents as young adults and have a peek into their world long before I was born. It was like looking through a telescope at the heavens, seeing backwards in time.

Cousin Paul Jendzezyk, whose mother, Stasia, (whom I called Ciocia Stasia) was my father's youngest sibling, recently loaned me her photo album of the 1920s - 1940s. This album was obviously compiled from at least one other album, as several pictures had remnants of black album pages glued tight. Older brothers Matthew (born 1910), Stanley (born 1913), and George (born 1918) were seen as young boys, then young men, often pictured with their little sister, Stasia, born in 1925.

As I selected pictures I wanted to scan, I realized that I was learning about family relationships, special occasions, and an occasional sad event. It was fun to see my father, uncles and aunt when they were very young. Knowing them as my elder relatives, I could see the glimmers in their young faces. I've selected some pictures to share, below, along with some comments.



Fig. 1 1940 Stasia Zych Jendzezyk (center) with her mother (my grandmother) Rozalia Rozanska Zych (left) and my mother Sophie Korycinski Zych (right). Picture taken in the back yard of the house on Fifth Avenue, where I grew up. Stasia is wearing a Polish costume; the occasion is unknown.

**Ciocia Stasia's Scrapbook  
Phyllis Zych Budka**



Fig. 2 1925 "Three Steps." The Zych boys, Stasia's older brothers: Matthew, Stanley (my father) and George. Stasia was born in 1925.



Fig. 3 1927 Stasia, age 2, with brother George – "Toots and Bud."



Fig. 4 1940 Gathering of the Zych and Korycinski families. Stasia is seated on the far right (Stas), my mother on the far left (Sophie). My two grandmothers are kneeling, on the right: Victoria Korycinski in the dark dress, Rozalia Zych in the light dress. My grandfather, Peter Korycinski is standing on the far left.

**Ciocia Stasia's Scrapbook  
Phyllis Zych Budka**



Fig. 5 1943 Stasia with friend Ben: “Good old Uncle Sam’s boy Ben, and Boots.” With the added note: “Killed on my birthday in Germany (1944.)” I don’t know who Ben is. This sad note is a stark reminder of the young lives lost in WWII and its impact at home. Apparently Stasia, as young “Toots” of 1927, became “Boots” in later years.

Stasia’s scrapbook held a surprise for me: My baby picture:



Fig. 6 1942 As first grandchild on both sides of the family, I am the “Matriarch of the Next Generation.” I was so happy to find myself in this book of family treasures!

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
Martin Byster**

**I Love America<sup>3</sup>**

(An Immigrant's Song)

--- Walt Dana [**Władysław Daniłowski**<sup>4</sup>] ---

I love A-mer-ic-a the land of lib-er-ty.  
I love A-mer-ic-a, this Coun-try is for me.  
Here I am mas-ter of my life, my des-tin-y.  
Oh! How good it is to live here, and be free.

My maternal grandparents to be, Katarzyna Borek and Feliks Kornacki since they first met by whatever brought them together there from Poland, lived their lives and fulfilled their destiny from River St., on the south bank of the Mohawk River, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward of Schenectady, NY.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, north of Front St. and Erie Blvd. Ext. to the Mohawk River at Freeman's Bridge is within the river floodplain where floodwaters have risen 10 to 20 feet above the current river level (213 ft el) at Schenectady<sup>5</sup> maintained today by the dam at Vischer Ferry<sup>6</sup> for navigation on the Mohawk as part of the New York State Barge Canal<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Music and lyrics in 4 by Walt Dana

--- *World Charts Presents The Polish Songbook*; Charles Hansen; Hansen House, Miami Beach, FL; 1976 <https://www.google.com/#q=World+Charts+presents+The+Polish+Song+Book>

<sup>4</sup> Władysław Daniłowski (also known by his pseudonym... Walter Dana); April 26, 1902 - March 4, 2000; ...a Polish and American pianist, composer and singer... in the United States...best known as a promoter of polka music.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C5%82adys%C5%82aw\\_Dani%C5%82owski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C5%82adys%C5%82aw_Dani%C5%82owski)

<sup>5</sup> Elevation at Freeman's Bridge

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=aly&gage=schn6>

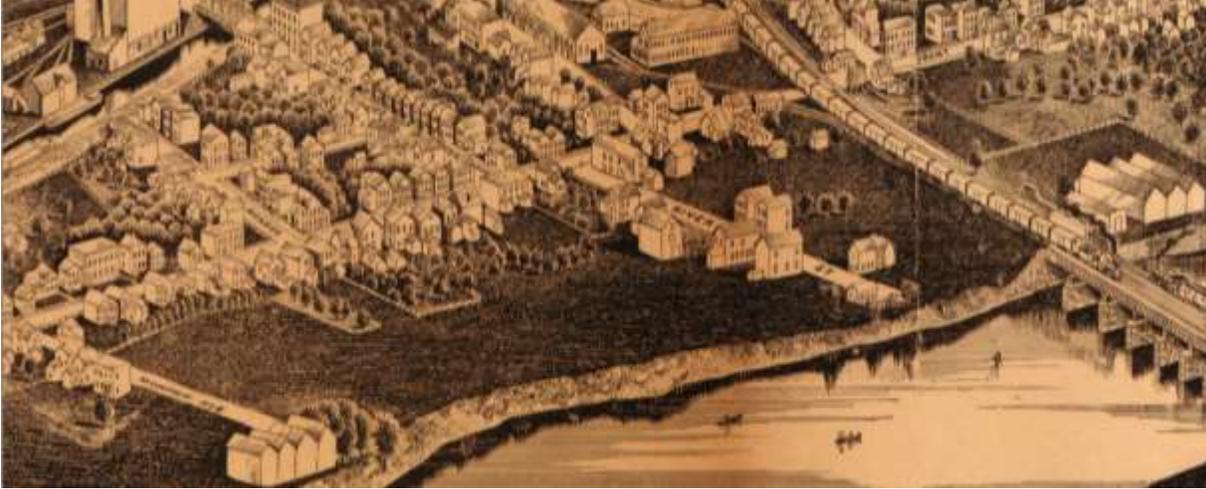
<sup>6</sup> NOTE: "... 2007, James Duggan, a retired state architect, amateur hydrologist and former Stockade resident, has suggested the Vischer Ferry dam is at least partly to blame for the frequent flooding. Others, including a geology professor at Union College ...give credence to his theory. They have urged the state to study the situation and, if warranted, modify the Vischer Ferry structure".

--- *A glitch along the Mohawk*, TU Editorial Board; Times Union, 2/24/2016  
<http://blog.timesunion.com/opinion/author/editorial/>

<sup>7</sup> NOTE: The Vis[c]her Ferry Dam...completed in 1914 ... [raised] the river level to 211' above sea level. In 1922 ...flashboards [2 feet high] were installed ... raising the river to its present elevation of 213'.

---2008; Mat Scheller, Karen Luey, John I. Garver, PhD; Major Floods on the Mohawk River (NY): 1832-2000; History on the River; Union College Geology Department; Version 1.2; March 2008  
[http://minerva.union.edu/garverj/mohawk/170\\_yr.html](http://minerva.union.edu/garverj/mohawk/170_yr.html)

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
Martin Byster**



**Fig.1: 1890-1894c Floodplain, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, Front ST north to Mohawk River<sup>8</sup>**

Front St. in the late 1600s exited the Schenectady Stockade as it does today and then ran east as the River Road to Niskayuna. The house of Francis Van der Bogart was immediately to the north, just outside the gate; his lands ran east between the river and the road<sup>9</sup> at least to where they would eventually meet the Kornacki homestead at 18 River St. Here were two building lots of about equal size, both 30 feet wide first back 83 feet from the street, then to 166 feet at the lands once of the Van der Bogert estate.

The building lots along the street were divided by Richard and Martha Marcellus, who in 1872, for consideration of \$110, sold<sup>10</sup> the lot at #18 (Fig.2) to Jacob W. Clute<sup>11</sup>. Jacob and Lizzie Clute, later in 1881, for consideration of \$125, sold<sup>12</sup> the lot to Charles Ernst

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<sup>8</sup> 1882; Burleigh, L. R. (Lucien R.) - Lyth, J. - Burleigh, L. R.; Schenectady, N.Y., NOTE: The representative period for the area between Front St and the Mohawk River is estimated between 1890 and 1894 based on *USGS Topographical Map. Schenectady, NY; 1898 ed.*, with maps available at these web sites.

1)<http://www.worldmapsonline.com/historicalmaps/1W-NY-SC-1882.htm>

2)<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/15861/Schenectady/Albany+and+Schenectady+Counties+1866/New+York/>

3)<https://www.loc.gov/collection/cities-and-towns/?q=schenectady%20%20n%20y%20%20%20aerial%20views&fi=subject>

4)<http://gremsdoolittlelibrary.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-east-front-street-neighborhood.html>

<sup>9</sup> 2004; Staffa, SJ; *Schenectady Genesis*; Map 4, The Village of Schenectady; p.30

<sup>10</sup> 1872; Warranty Deed: Jacob Clute and Wife to Charles Ernst; Dated Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1881; Schenectady County; Recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1890...Liber 88 of Deeds, at page 332&c; NOTE: Copy of deed held by the author.

<sup>11</sup> NOTE: Jacob W. Clute, Mayor of Schenectady, NY 1893-1897 and 1906-1907 ---1974; Hart, Larry; *Schenectady's Golden Age 1880-1930*, p.292; Old Dorp Books; Scotia, NY; 1976

<sup>12</sup> 1881; Warranty Deed: Richard Marcellus and Wife to Jacob Clute; Dated Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1872; Schenectady County; Recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1877...Book No. 66 of Deeds, at page 447; NOTE: Copy of deed held by the author.

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
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who then, with his wife, Mary, built<sup>13</sup> their home, a 2 story duplex and added<sup>14</sup> the second lot in 1892.



**Fig.2: 1894 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing River Street.<sup>15</sup>**

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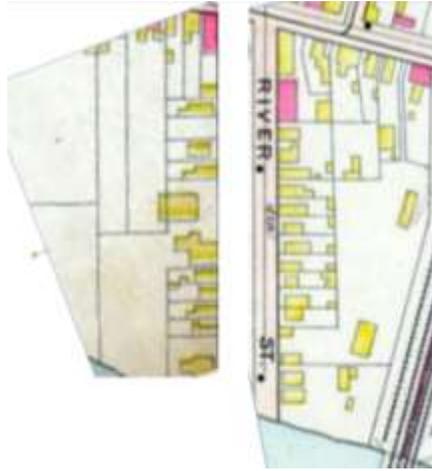
<sup>13</sup> 1882; Bond: Charles Ernst to James Hannah; Amount \$500; Date, Feb 4, 1882; Due, 5 years; Interest Payable, annually (@ 6%) / Mortgage: Charles Ernst and wife to James Hannah; Dated February 4<sup>th</sup> 1882...Liber 63 of Mortgages at page 139 / Assignment of Mortgage: Caroline Hannah to Clara McMullen; dated July 19, 1889; Schenectady County; Recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1890...Liber A of Assgts of Mortgages page 237 / Satisfaction of Mortgage: Clara McMullen to Charles and Mary Ernst; dated July 7<sup>th</sup> 1890; Schenectady County; Recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1890...Liber Q [?] of Mortgages.

<sup>14</sup> 1892; Warranty Deed: Patrick Kilgallin to Charles Ernst; Schenectady County; 8<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1892 Liber 94 of DEEDS, at page 43 etc; NOTE: Copy of deed held by the author.

<sup>15</sup> 1894; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*; Collections of Grems-Doolittle Library, Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY  
<http://gremsdoolittlelibrary.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-east-front-street-neighborhood.html>

## Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Martin Byster

A 4 inch pipeline (Fig.2) down the middle of the street<sup>16</sup> supplied fresh water; sewage and storm water drained<sup>17</sup> into the river. With the exception of 9 River St., development was nearly complete in 1905 with three tenement houses at the corners with Front St. (Fig.3a & 3b).



**Fig.3a & 3b: River Street with Tenement Houses in 1905<sup>18</sup>**

As the future came into focus, the past faded away. The broom corn that once graced the floodplain disappeared, as did the varnish works<sup>19</sup>, the broom factories<sup>20 21</sup>, the silk mill<sup>22</sup> and the ice house, closed and some lost to the ravages of fire.

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<sup>16</sup> NOTE: "1871-Schenectady water system was developed...stockade foundation exposed during laying of water main along Ferry Street ---1974; Hart, p.298.

<sup>17</sup> NOTE: "...extremely objectionable conditions are created by the discharge of sewage from the city [Schenectady] into the Mohawk River...disregarding the rights of municipalities lower down the...river." - Theodore Horton, Chief Engineer; NYS Department of Health; 5/15/1913; Albany, NY ---1914; Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Volume 41; pp.510-514

<sup>18</sup> 1905; Miller, DL; Schenectady, NY

1)<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/32282/Plate+003/Schenectady+County+and+Village+of+Scotia+1905/New+York/>

2)<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/32283/Plate+004/Schenectady+County+and+Village+of+Scotia+1905/New+York/>

<sup>19</sup> 1899; Pettingill & Company, 1899; LA Elder and Co Varnish Works; p.490

<https://books.google.com/books?id=A0IHAQAAMAAJ&dq>

<sup>20</sup> 1915; *Brooms, Brushes and Handles, Volume 18, p.15* "...the factory of Henry Whitmeyer is operating on a schedule similar to that of the world's leading city".

<https://books.google.com/books?id=yqY6AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA11-PA15&dq>

<sup>21</sup> 1921; *Brooms, Brushes & Handles, Volume 24, p.62* "Schenectady, NY --- Fire of mysterious origin destroyed the broom factory of Henry Whitmyer, River Street...The loss is estimated at \$25,000 which is partially covered by insurance".

<https://books.google.com/books?id=HIBOAQAAMAAJ>

<sup>22</sup> 1897; *Textile World's Directory of the Mill Trade in the United States, 1897: Comprising Cotton Mills, Woolen Mills, Knitting Mills, Silk Mills, Flax, Jute and Linen Mills*; Horstman Silk Co; 15 River St; Worsted

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
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Between 1870 and 1910, the population of Schenectady increased from 11,000 to 73,000<sup>23</sup>. Immigrants from Italy and Poland resettled a neighborhood of Irish and Germans. There were some 300 residents of River St. in 1910; 180 were Polish or Polish Americans<sup>24</sup>. In 1915 there were about 400 residents; 190 were Polish or Polish descent<sup>25</sup>. Men, heads of family and boarders, were mostly employees of the American Locomotive Company (ALCO)<sup>26</sup> hired on as needed and subject to layoffs.

Charles Ernst was an upholsterer; his address in city directories through 1918 is listed as 18 River St.; however he is not resident there in the 1910 US Census, in the 1915 NY Census or in any thereafter.

For the Ernsts, the Mohawk flood waters in 1893 were in the cellar, perhaps encroaching at the threshold, but outside the house. In 1903, waters were inside half-way up the walls of the first floor. In March 1910, 3 months before Katarzyna arrived, flood waters were again in the house at the first floor window sills; but the Ernsts had moved on.

Perhaps as destiny would have it, the 1910 flood in displacing tenants at 18 River St. created a rental opportunity taken by her Uncles Frank and Antoni, who were displaced from their flooded apartment at 22 Mohawk Ave. and incidentally included an offer of room and board accepted by Ms. Katarzyna Borek.

In either 1911 or 1912, my grandfather came from Jefferson St. (Lover's Lane) and introduced himself to my grandmother at the railing of the front "stoop" (Fig.4).

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and Silk Mittens and Gloves; 8 knitting machines; 20 sewing machines; steam; sell direct.; p.159. NOTE: My grandmother told me the mill was destroyed in a fire.  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=Xi0-AQAAMAAJ>

<sup>23</sup> ---1974; Hart, p.291.

<sup>24</sup> ---1910; US Census; 13<sup>th</sup> Population; Schenectady, NY; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, River Street

<sup>25</sup> ---1915; NY Census; Enumeration of Inhabitants; Schenectady, NY; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, River Street

<sup>26</sup> NOTE: The Company was created in 1901 from the merger of seven smaller locomotive manufacturers with Schenectady Locomotive Engine Manufactory of Schenectady, New York.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Locomotive\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Locomotive_Company)

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
Martin Byster**



**Fig.4: Front Stoop, 18 River ST (1948)<sup>27</sup>**

They were married on 7 June 1913.

Flood waters at a record level on 28 March 1913 challenged Katarzyna before she was married and exactly one year later on 28 March 1914 at record level as a parent only 16 days after her first child, a daughter, my mother Pauline, delivered at home on 12 March 1914.

In the census records, the Kornackis in 1915 were living in the first floor apartment at 18 River St. with their one year old daughter. Uncle Frank Dobies, with his family, lived on the second floor. It is not unreasonable to write that the first floor apartment was home for Katarzyna, when in 1913 it was flooded to within a foot of the ceiling. The Kornackis were living there in 1914, when water rose to just inches from the second floor.



**Fig. 5: Front Street in the 100 Year Flood, 28 March 1914 <sup>28</sup>**

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<sup>27</sup> 1948; Front Stoop or Porch, 18 River ST where Katarzyna Borek and Feliks Kornacki first met in 1911-1912 prior to their marriage in 1913. Family photo collection in the possession of Martin Byster

<sup>28</sup> 1914; Boaters and waders deal with flood waters on Front Street at the ALCO plant in this photograph from the 1910s. Image from Collections of Grems-Doolittle Library, Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY  
<http://gremsdoolittlelibrary.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-east-front-street-neighborhood.html>

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka**  
**Martin Byster**

Any talk from my grandparents about the flooding, as I recall, simply dismissed it as an inconvenience. They survived with the house intact, so they cleaned up and went on with their lives. The flooding brought on by tropical storm Irene in 2011 provided me with a measure of just how inconvenient flooding at near record level can be.

Flood waters once again, on 2 April 1916, breached the interior of homes on River St. This time, it was only 6 days after my grandparent's only son, Joseph (later my uncle Joe), was born on 8 April 1916.

ALCO took measures to protect their plant along the river. Eventually, an elevated earthen railroad siding that protects River St. from the river's floods was built along the river bank from the main line of the NY Central Railroad into the plant. Rising river waters may have filled basements but did not reach the first floor again (a near miss in 1996) until Irene.

Whatever the reason, Feliks with Katarzyna Kornacka (to Feliks, Katie) took residence at 22 River St. at least in the years 1917 to 1920. What may be the only surviving picture of that period is my uncle Joe on a pony in the side yard at 22 River St.



*Fig. 6: 1917c. Joseph Kornacki on a Pony*

Feliks in the NY1915 census is listed as a machinist (my grandmother said he began as a drill press operator); and in 1917 his World War I registration card lists him as a laborer, in either case employed at ALCO. In 1918 he was initiated into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Local 202 of Schenectady classified as a "Reamer". In those years, he worked in the ALCO Tank Shop, most notably on steam locomotives, some for export to Russia<sup>29</sup>. Russian engineers who designed them often inspected his work, to whom he was proud to explain what he did.

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<sup>29</sup> NOTE: The Russian locomotive class Ye (Паровоз Е) was a series of [2-10-0](#) locomotives built by American builders for the Russian railways during World War I. In 1915, the first 400 locomotives entered production. Subclasses were designated for the city of the manufacturer: Ec ("c" in the Cyrillic equivalent of the Latin "s") for Schenectady, New York). Following the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, 200 locomotives were stranded in the United States. Ec-320 now as a memorial in Chelyabinsk, Russia may be the only survivor of these locomotives built by ALCO in its Schenectady shops.

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka**  
**Martin Byster**

As life in the United States approached the “Roaring Twenties,” Feliks and Katie had three children: Pauline age 6, Joseph age 4, and Josephine age 1. They were renting an apartment at 22 River St. from the owner and resident landlord John Jablonski<sup>30</sup>.

Felix worked at ALCO and Katie was the homemaker with two boarders, Feliks’ brother John Kornacki and Joseph Gabis, both helpers at ALCO.

Certainly Felix and Katie would have had a row boat moored on the river at River St. in the spring, summer and fall to take shortly after the shop whistle blew at the end of the first shift at ALCO to Hog Island and tend their garden.

(To be continued)



- 1) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian\\_locomotive\\_class\\_Ye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_locomotive_class_Ye)
- 2) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Es-350-1920.jpg>
- 3) <http://ssgen.livejournal.com/507906.html>

<sup>30</sup> ---1920; US Census; 14<sup>th</sup> Population; Schenectady, NY; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, River Street, sheet 3A

**Pani Katarzyna Kornacka  
Martin Byster**

**APPENDIX A**

**Family Group Sheet for FELIKS (FELIX) KORNACKI**

<b>Husband:</b>		FELIKS (FELIX)KORNACKI
	Birth:	23 Mar 1887 in PARAFIA MLODZIESZYN, POLAND
	Death:	26 Feb 1954 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Burial:	SAINT MARY of CZESTOCHOWA CEMETERY; SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage:	07 Jun 1913 in ST. MARY'S, SCHENECTADY, NY
	Father:	ANDRZEJ KORNACKI
	Mother:	TEOFILA WRZESINSKA
<b>Wife:</b>		KATARZYNA (KATHERINE - "KATIE") BOREK
	Birth:	26 Feb 1892 in PARLIN, ELZBIECIN, POLAND
	Death:	04 Mar 1993 in SCHENECTADY, NY (5:50AM)
	Burial:	SAINT MARY of CZESTOCHOWA CEMETERY; SCHENECTADY, NY
	Father:	ADAM BOREK
	Mother:	APOLONIA DOBIES
<b>Children:</b>		
1 F	Name:	APOLONA (PAULINE-PAUL)THERESA KORNACKI
	Birth:	12 Mar 1914 in SCHENECTADY, NY (at Home)
	Death:	03 Feb 1994 in SCHENECTADY, NY (3:00AM)
	Marriage:	21 Nov 1936 in ST. MARY'S, SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	BRONISLAUS (BENJAMIN-BEN-BENNY) JOSEPH BYSTER
2 M	Name:	JOSEF (JOSEPH-JOE) STANLEY KORNACKI
	Birth:	08 Apr 1916 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death:	17 Dec 1987 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage:	29 Sep 1940 in ST. MARY'S, SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	GRACE ELIZABETH MATTHEWS
3 F	Name:	JOSEPHINE KATHERINE KORNACKI
	Birth:	19 Mar 1919 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death:	28 Dec 1997 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage:	05 Jun 1948 in ST. MARY'S, SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	BERNARD ANTHONY (SZYMANSKI) SYMANSKI
4 F	Name:	WICTORIA (VICTORIA-VICKY) KORNACKI
	Birth:	19 Jun 1921 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death:	03 Mar 2006 in SCENECTADY, NY
	Marriage:	14 Nov 1943 in ST. MARY'S; SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	JOSEPH (ZAKRZEWSKI) ZAKRISKI
5 F	Name:	GENOWEFA (GENEVIEVE-JANET)PATRICIA KORNACKI
	Birth:	22 Jun 1922 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death:	05 Dec 1981 in KENSINGTON, MD
	Marriage:	Feb 1951 in ST. MARY'S; SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	DONALD ENDICOTT (Sr) REED
6 F	Name:	GERTRUDA (GERTRUDE-GERT) KORNACKI
	Birth:	04 Mar 1929 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage:	11 Feb 1950 in ST. MARY'S; SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse:	ROBERT H BARRY

Although The Ages Separate Us, A Passion for Learning Links Us  
(DZIELĄ NAS WIEKI ŁĄCZY PASJA POZNANIA)  
Krystyna Pawlowska- Bernacka, Torun, Poland  
Edited by Cousin Phyllis Zych Budka



Typical structures in Trakai, Lithuania, ancestral area of Korycinskis and Pawlowskis.  
Water colors by Krystyna Pawlowska-Bernacka.

Phyllis's note: My maternal grandfather, an ethnic Pole, was Peter Korycinski, who came to Schenectady from the area of today's Trakai, Lithuania, with his 2 brothers in 1911. They left behind parents, 2 sisters and a brother. I had prepared Korycinski family information for a family gathering in Poland in 2011 and someone put it on the internet, where Krystyna found it. I was privileged to attend a Korycinski family reunion in Trakai, Lithuania, in 2013, where I met Krystyna in person.

Krystyna was born in Lithuania; her family moved to Poland after WWII. She is a talented artist and enthusiastic genealogical researcher. She has done excellent research on family history and found that she and I are connected by a mutual relative, KAROLINA KORYCIŃSKA PAWŁOWSKA, who died in 1833! Though we are genealogically separated by nearly 200 years, we have met several times and shared information.

Recently, I was surprised and delighted to receive the following newsletter submission from cousin Krystyna, who came across the "Project" Newsletter on the internet.

In Fig. 3, below, Krystyna illustrates our mutual Korycinski family connection and her Pawlowski ancestors.

Krystyna writes:

I found Phyllis Budka on the internet when the name KORYCIŃSKI appeared in my genealogical tree. Thanks to Phyllis's initiative, I got to know the larger family of Poles in America, in Poland and in current Lithuania. I made friends with the Korycinskis living in Lithuania. Together we are examining areas where the Koryciński and Pawłowski families lived long ago. The family lived for 250 years in the district of Trakai, Lithuania.

In 1796, in ancient Poland, now Lithuania, my great great great grandmother, Karolina Korycińska, married Antoni Pawłowski. There were 10 children from this marriage. Anastazy Pawłowski (1805- 61) was the fifth child, my ancestor. The last time the surnames Koryciński and Pawlowski appeared together in family documents was in 1861.

For me Phyllis is a chief genealogical researcher. Cordial thanks to Phyllis Budka.



Fig. 1 Phyllis (Left) and Krystyna – Our first meeting – Trakai, Lithuania, 2013. Krystyna gifted me with one of her paintings, which now proudly hangs in my home.



Fig 2 Korycinski Family Reunion – Trakai, Lithuania – 2013. Phyllis (red shirt) in center; Krystyna in doorway on left of tall man. Krystyna's daughter, Alicja, is in doorway on her left.



**IGNACY  
KORYCIŃSKI-  
First wedding?  
ELŻBIETA  
POCZOBUT  
Son John 1785+**

**IGNACY  
KORYCIŃSKI –  
Second wedding 1788  
ANTONINA PASZKOWSKA**  
  
Son Stanislaw Karol  
1790, Son Karol Fabian  
1797, Son Dominik  
Kajetan 1798, Daughter  
Petronela 1797 , Son  
**Piotr Paweł Koryciński  
No I 1802– 1846**



**ANTONI KORYCIŃSKI 1735~~1780?  
ANNA PASZKOWSKA  
1735~~1780?wedding  
Son Ignacy1765?-1820?  
Son Karol 1769-+1798  
Daughter Karolina 1775-1833,  
Daughter Anna ?**



**PIOTR PAWEŁ KORYCIŃSKI  
1802-1846 No I, Karolina  
Kudrewicz –wedding 1823  
Daughter Petronela 1825?  
Daughter Józefa 1829,  
Son Michał–1835,  
Daughter Maryanna 1837  
Son Piotr Paweł No II – 1841**

**ANTONI KORYCIŃSKI No I Helena  
Surwillo wedding Lithuania  
Son  
ANTONI KORYCIŃSKI No II 1927-  
Stanisława Rodziewicz wedding 1931-**



**KAROLINA  
KORYCIŃSKA 1775-  
1833, ANTONI  
PAWŁOWSKI 1769- 1840  
? wedding 1796  
1 D. Apolonia 1798  
Wedding 1796  
2 D. Petronela 1801  
3 D.Józefata 1802  
4 D. Barbara 1803  
5 ANASTAZY Pawłowski  
1805- 61  
6 S. Stanislaw 1808-76  
7 D. Rozalia 1811  
8 S. Jan 1814  
9 S. Piotr Pawłowski 1817-  
87  
10 S. Wincenty 1822**

**ANASTAZY PAWŁOWSKI  
wedding 1824 Petronela  
Bojarun  
Son KAZIMIERZ No I 1826-  
1895 Marcjanna Juniewicz  
wedding  
Son KAZIMIERZ No II  
1872-1913 Krystyna  
Linkiewicz 1876-1855 Poland  
Son WIKTOR 1911-1988  
Halina Morozowska wedding  
Daughter Krystyna  
Pawłowska- Bernacka 1941  
SHORT GENEALOGY  
K Pawłowska-Bernacka 2016  
Poland**