

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

January 2017 Vol. 4 No. 1  
Our Fourth Year!

As we enter our fourth year, our objective continues to be to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories, and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants.

Please share your family history, help pass on the (electronic) word. The next deadlines for 2017 are April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 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) Without your stories, there can be no newsletter. To be added to the newsletter e-mail list, contact Phyllis.

**Save the Date: Publishing Your Family's History**

When: Saturday, February 18, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Schenectady County Historical Society,  
32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305

Cost: \$5; Free for SCHS Members

**The Schenectady Digital History Archive** To find our newsletters on-line:

<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/ee/>

**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.

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

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**Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church  
Pearl Street, Schenectady  
Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk**



**Fig. 1 Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church,  
Pearl Street, Schenectady**

Cousin Paul Jendzeizyk's stash of old photographs continues to be a rich source of both family and local history. Paul's parents, Stasia and Edwin Jendzeizyk, and paternal grandparents, Vincent and Katherine Jendrzeizyk, were members of the Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church pictured above. The three professional black and white photographs of church events among his photo collection intrigued me. Unfortunately, they contain neither dates nor event information.

My curiosity led me to contact Father James Konicki, Pastor of the Church. Father James confirmed that the picture of the congregation was indeed taken in his Church. I recognized Paul's Father, my Uncle Ed, in the top right corner of Fig. 3. We agreed that this was probably a Church-related organization. Father James immediately identified Bishop Joseph Padewski in Fig. 4 and told me his story, which still sends shivers down my spine.

**Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church  
Pearl Street, Schenectady  
Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk**



Fig. 2 Holy Name of Jesus Congregation, Late 1940s?



Fig. 3 Church organization – Edwin Jendzeizyk, top row, far right; date unknown

**Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church  
Pearl Street, Schenectady  
Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk**



Fig. 4 Bishop Joseph Padewski visits Holy Name of Jesus – Late 1940s?

**Bishop Leon Grochowski, Prime Bishop of the PNCC  
and possible Martyr**

Leon Grochowski was born near Łomża, Poland, and emigrated to the United States in 1905. He was elected a bishop in the PNCC on July 15, 1924, and was consecrated to the episcopate on August 17, 1924.

Bishop Grochowski served as Ordinary of the Western Diocese of the PNCC, and as the third Ordinary of the Central Diocese of the PNCC. He became Prime Bishop of the PNCC on the death of Franciszek Hodur in 1953.

In the late 1960s Prime Bishop Grochowski traveled to Poland in an attempt to meet with the leaders of the Polish Catholic Church (originally Polski Narodowy Kościół Katolicki) that had been founded by the PNCC in the Poland in the 1920s. This is the only instance where a Church organized by immigrants in the United States was later established in the immigrant community's original homeland.

Bishop Grochowski focused his work on ensuring the independence of the Polish Catholic Church from communist government influence. After a dinner meeting with communist

**Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church  
Pearl Street, Schenectady  
Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk**

government authorities in Warsaw on July 17, 1969 he died. Some have surmised that he had been poisoned at the event.

Many Polish Catholic Church faithful had been killed during the Nazi German occupation of Poland and the later communist takeover. This included the only United States Citizen and prelate to ever have been killed by communist authorities, Bishop Joseph Padewski

The following is from Father James Konicki's website:

<http://konicki.com/blog2/pncc-documents/bishop-joseph-padewski-martyr/>

**Bishop Joseph Padewski, Martyr**

Bishop Padewski was born February 18, 1894 in Antoniów, a small farming village near Radom in Poland. He emigrated to the United States in 1913 and moved to Detroit, Michigan. In Detroit he came into contact with the Polish National Catholic Church. In 1916 he entered the PNCC Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 16, 1919 by Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. He celebrated his first mass at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Plymouth, Pennsylvania.

In 1931 Father Padewski was sent to Poland as part of the PNCC mission of evangelization in Poland and to work on consolidating the structures of the PNCC (PNKK) in Poland. He was appointed assistant to Bishop Leon Grochowski.

In January 1933, at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the PNCC in Poland, attended by Bishop Hodur, Father Padewski was appointed administrator of the PNCC in Poland. At the Second Synod of the PNCC in Poland in April 1935 Father Padewski was elected Bishop. Father Padewski was elevated to the Episcopacy on August 26, 1936 in Scranton.

Before the Second World War the PNCC had 100,000 members, 52 parishes, 12 affiliate churches, and 52 priests in Poland.

On September 1, 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet Union invaded from the east. The losses to Poland and to the Church in Poland during the Nazi German and Soviet occupation were devastating. Over 6 million Poles died including 3 million Polish citizens of the Jewish faith. Many priests were sent to concentration camps. In all, 28% of PNCC priests were killed.

In part, Bishop Padewski was able to save the church from complete liquidation by bringing the church under the control of the Old Catholic Church's Bishop in Bonn, Erwin Kreuzer.

**Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church  
Pearl Street, Schenectady  
Phyllis Zych Budka, Father James Konicki and Paul Jendzeizyk**



In 1942 Bishop Padewski was arrested by the Nazis and was held at the Montelupich prison in Krakow. He was then transferred to the Tittmoning POW Camp in Germany where he was held for 18 months. Through the intervention of the Swiss Red Cross he was freed and returned to the United States in March 1944.

Between 1944 and 1946 Bishop Padewski served as pastor of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Church in Albany, New York.

Bishop Padewski returned to Poland on February 20, 1946 to resume his duties as Bishop of the Polish branch of the PNCC.

Shortly after his return, the Soviet Union completed its takeover of Poland and asserted Communist control. In this atmosphere of Stalinist terror, Bishop Padewski was arrested by the Communist Secret Police (UB) in Warsaw and was held at their prison on Rakowieckiej Street.

Bishop Padewski died on May 10, 1951 as a result of secret police questioning and maltreatment.

PART 1 - "Pazura" (The Claw)  
A Maska Dramatic Circle Play by Schenectady, New York,  
Playwright Zygmunt Brzozowski

Phyllis Zych Budka

The Maska Dramatic Circle was formed in Schenectady, New York, in 1933 and performed more than 51 plays in Polish for appreciative audiences until 1942. Its membership over this period numbered about 170 mostly first generation, bilingual young adults. Sunday performances, often followed by a dance, were held at the Polish National Alliance home on Crane Street in the Mont Pleasant section of the city. (For an in depth history of this group, see my book, "The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish American Theater In Schenectady, New York (1933-1942)" by Phyllis Zych Budka, available on Amazon and Lulu.com.)

While most performances were 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century farces by well-established Polish playwrights, the Maska group included two dramatists, Zygmunt Brzozowski and Joseph Czyzewski. To date, only one complete "local manuscript" is known: "Pazura" (The Claw) by Brzozowski, writing under the pen name Zygmunt Antoni.

A manuscript of Brzozowski's three act play, "Pazura," was found recently in the attic of my mother's girlhood home on Forest Road, as the property was prepared for sale. The manuscript is typewritten and mimeographed in the familiar blue font, now faded, and on fragile, yellowed paper.

As the "Maska" book manuscript was nearing completion, I realized that I was "obligated" to translate this precious document. Plus, I was very curious about the plot. My parents' Maska scrapbook had no information about "Pazura" – no program, no mention in the Maska Buletyns (newsletters) – no nothing! Fortunately, one pre-performance and one post-performance news article were found on fultonhistory.com. They are reproduced below. From this information, I learned that "Pazura" was performed on Sunday, May 14, 1939, perhaps the one and only time. My father, Stanley Zych, played the lawyer Syska. My mother, Sophie Korycinski, was one of the potential heiresses, Klara Makówka.

Growing up, I knew Zyg Brzozowski and can still see his mustachioed, smiling face in my mind's eye. A family friend – he was in my parents' wedding, second generation local funeral director, and very active Maska member, "Pazura" was his second play. The first, "Djabel z Monoklem" ("Devil with a Monocle") was presented on Sunday, November 28, 1937. The plot centers around an ingenious method of smuggling contraband into Poland from Nazi Germany. A few years later, "Pazura," billed as a mystery-comedy, was performed on Sunday, May 14, 1939.

Mustering my weak Polish, Google Translate and the family's old Polish-English dictionary, I set about the "Pazura" translation task. The manuscript illustrates the linguistic world of these mostly first generation Polish-Americans. It is typed on a typewriter which contains the 7 Polish characters not found in the English alphabet. The dialog is in Polish; stage directions are in English – well, almost. Here and there, an English word or phrase crept into the manuscript; here and there, a Polish word is mixed into the English text. Born in the US, English was Zyg's first language, Polish his second. I often reminded myself that he was thinking in English but writing in Polish, which made my task a bit easier. However, I still don't know what the appropriate 1930s English phrase is for something that has been, in Polish, *po kiełbasito* (made into sausage). The translation task was made a bit more challenging by occasional typos.

PART 1 - "Pazura" (The Claw)  
A Maska Dramatic Circle Play by Schenectady, New York,  
Playwright Zygmunt Brzozowski

Phyllis Zych Budka

This is a mystery comedy – and I could not know the ending until I pressed through the entire translation. That kept me motivated and intrigued, and occasionally laughing out loud. This is a true “period piece,” probably written in the mid-1930s. The setting is undoubtedly Schenectady. The fact that Zyg, a trained embalmer and owner of a funeral home, wrote about heirs and heiresses, makes me wonder what pieces of dialogue he had actually witnessed professionally?

I chose to keep character names in their Polish form. Occasionally, one character would address another in the diminutive form, a term of endearment in Polish, example, “Stasiu.”

Cast of Characters

Polish Name	Translation	Role
Horacyjusz Burak	Horace Turnip	Wealthy deceased
Marek Syaka		Lawyer
Kunnegunda Pirog	Kunnegunda Dumpling	Faithful servant
Zosia Burak	Sophie Turnip	Heiress
Broncia Cukierek	Bernice Candy	Potential Heiress
Klara Makówka	Sophie Poppy Seed	Potential Heiress
Stanislaw / Stas / Stasiu Chmurka	Stanley / Stan Cloud	Potential Heir
Pawel Polonowicz	Paul	Potential Heir
Tomasz / Tomek Pasternak	Thomas / Tommy Parsnip	Potential Heir
Grzegorz Kapusciak	Gregory Cabbage Soup	Asylum Guard
Dionyzy Galareta	Dionysius Jelly	Doctor

A note about the reference to “Poughkeepsie sanatorium” – insane asylum – in the play. Older New Yorkers will recognize this reference as the Hudson River State Hospital, a state psychiatric hospital, 1873 – 2000.

The manuscript has several areas crossed out, which I did not translate.

I am indebted to Joanna Dickerson, a local friend born in Poland, for her help in polishing my Polish in the final phase of translation. Joanna pointed out that the “*Pazura*’s” Polish was less than 100% correct. Overall, the manuscript is an amusing linguistic mixture, and probably a reflection of some actual intergenerational conversations in local families.

*Publicity for “Pazura”*

1939 May 9 Gazette Page 8 Maska Circle To Give Play

The Maska Dramatic Circle will conclude its fifth subscription season next Sunday at the Polish home with the presentation of a mystery-comedy entitled “Pazura.” The plot of the play centers about a will left by an eccentric old man who had made a fortune here in

PART 1 - "Pazura" (The Claw)  
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Playwright Zygmunt Brzozowski  
Phyllis Zych Budka

America and then had no one to whom to leave his estate. So he made a most extraordinary will that becomes a bone of contention among his distant relations. The person who finally inherited the fortune of Horacyjusz Burak also inherited a pack of trouble because she aroused the ill will of the other claimants. Zosia Burak a very distant relative of the old man became the target of a murder plot and various other unpleasant surprises. The play is fast moving and is packed with action.

Rehearsals are being staged every day during these last few days and Stanley Zych and Joseph Czyzewski are co-operating in preparation for next Sunday. An entirely new set of scenery is being made especially designed to add chills to the play. The stage work is being supervised by Mary Zborowski, Zygmunt Brzozowski and Zygmunt Kilian.

Sunday's play will conclude Maska's fifth successful subscription

1939 May 17 Gazette Page 8 Mystery Drama Is Presented by Maska Players

Maska closed its fifth subscription season Sunday night with a comedy-mystery entitled "Pazura" ('The Claw'). The play was packed with laughs and chills. The receptive audience was kept in suspense until the very end of the play. The revealing of the villain was a shock to all. Genevieve Stelmach as Tosia [Zosia] Burak, the plucky young heiress, had enough will power to overcome the assaults of her mental capacity.

Lucian Sekowski as the hero, Stas Chmurka was the very picture of shyness, hesitancy and fright. Leo Marcinek as the villain, Pawel Polonowicz was so smooth and sly that he escaped detection until the very end. Helen Kilian as Broncia Cukierek was the sarcastic relative of the deceased, bitterly disillusioned because she did not inherit the Burak fortune. Her biting sarcasm placed the finger of guilt on her more than once in the play, Sophie Korycinski as Klara Makowka, another disappointed relative, did a good job of her role, Stanley Zych as Marek Syaka, the executor of the Burak estate and also the victim of the villain's diabolic plot, admirably portrayed the role, Casimir Laniewski as the unsuccessful lover showed his disappointment in no uncertain terms. Thaddeus Kilian as Grzegorz Kapusciak was instrumental in revealing the villain. His role was excellent. Mary Czyzewski as Kunnegunda Pirog, the spiritualistic medium, gave everyone the creeps by her trances. Joseph Czyzewski as the mysterious Dr. Dionyzy Galareta added to the mystery of the play. The play was under the direction of Stanley Zych and Joseph Czyzewski.

Zygmunt Brzozowski did a remarkable job in preparing the odd sets of scenery for the mystery-comedy and his innovations added many more chills. Stanley Bachleda and Bernard Szumachowski aided during the evening's work on the stage. Celia Boroski and Regina Chantnicki took care of the makeup. Michael Tytko was prompter as usual.

Maska is now making final plans for a June jamboree, details of which will soon be ready. To top off Maska activities for the 1938-39 season, there will be a semi-formal social and dance during the closing days of June.

Sunday marked the successful close of Maska's fifth subscription season, and Maska wishes to take this occasion to thank those patrons who have been loyal throughout.

PART 1 - "Pazura" (The Claw)  
A Maska Dramatic Circle Play by Schenectady, New York,  
Playwright Zygmunt Brzozowski

Phyllis Zych Budka

Plans are already afoot for a better and bigger sixth subscription season, the 1939-40 season.

PART 2 - "Pazura"

As I sat down in my favorite chair on a Friday evening last September, I grabbed my TV remote and checked the description for the Turner Classic Movie offering. I was suddenly transfixed by the information on "The Cat and the Canary," a 1939 film starring Douglass Montgomery, Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard. The plot sounded surprisingly familiar!

I was transfixed for its 72 minute running time. This was basically "Pazura," with some very interesting differences! I quickly wrote down the opening credits, taped it and later Googled the playwright's name, John Willard. This movie was a remake of the 1927 silent movie, both based on Willard's 1922 play, "The Cat and the Canary," which opened on Broadway's National Theater on February 7, 1922. There have been at least 4 films based on the play.

The other day, I was surprised to find that I could watch the 82 minute 1927 silent film by the same name on line at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Cat\\_and\\_the\\_Canary\\_\(1927\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cat_and_the_Canary_(1927_film))

Information on the 1939 film is found at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Cat\\_and\\_the\\_Canary\\_\(1939\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cat_and_the_Canary_(1939_film))

My "Pazura" translation is available to any person or group who wishes to either study it or present it to an audience. Contact me at [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com).

# Publishing Your Family's History

with Phyllis Zych Budka and Seena Karen

Rasmussen Drapala

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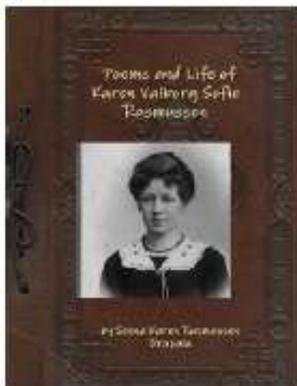
**When:** Saturday, February 18, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Schenectady County Historical Society,  
32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305

**Cost:** \$5; Free for SCHS Members

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Phyllis Zych Budka recently published her book *The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933-1942)* on Lulu.com. A Schenectady native, Phyllis wished to tell the story of Schenectadians of Polish heritage through a drama group called the "Maska Dramatic Circle." Budka's parents, Stanley Jacob Zych and Sophie Victoria Korycinski Zych, were both involved with Maska. Her father, Stanley, started a Maska scrapbook, which was continued by her mother after their marriage in 1940. Phyllis used the scrapbook as the basis for the book.



Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala published *The Poems and Life of Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen* on Lulu.com. This book details the history of Seena's grandmother Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen. Karen emigrated from Denmark to Schenectady in 1906 and worked as a seamstress, was a founding member of the Danish Sisterhood Society Lodge #142, and encouraged the assimilation of many young immigrant Americans. This book features poems from Karen as well as Seena's memories of her beloved Grandma Val. Seena will be joining us through Skype as she is not local to Schenectady.

For more information, contact Michael Maloney, Librarian/Archivist at the Schenectady County Historical Society, by phone at 518-374-0263 or by email at [librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org](mailto:librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org). The Schenectady County Historical Society is wheelchair accessible, with off-street parking behind the building and overflow parking next door at the YWCA.

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PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster



Fig. 1: Dziadunio [Clarinet] Polka

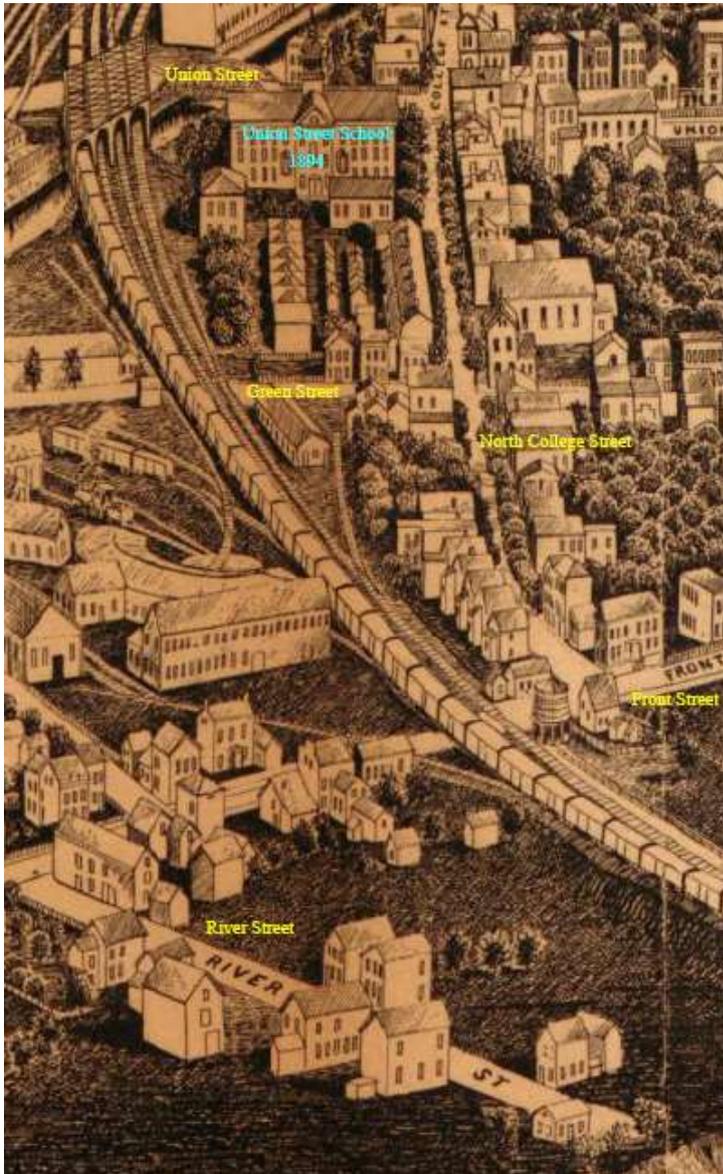
On the eve of the “Roaring Twenties” the Kornacki household lived on the second floor at 22 River Street above record flood level with three children: Pauline, age 5; Joseph, 3; and Josephine born on March 19, 1919. Katie took care of the children at home and back and forth to school. Feliks, a machinist and labor union member, walked up River Street, turned left along Front Street to work at the American Locomotive Company in less than 10 minutes.

Feliks and Katie brought forward into the twenties a wealth, prosperity and family they accumulated in the “mean teens”ii. By 1920 they were prosperous and secure, enough for Feliks together with two partners to start a grocery and meat business whose ultimate disposition remains unknown.

The Golden Age of Railroads peaked but entered an extended period of decline. ALCO entered the 1920s riding on a World War I locomotive boom building steam locomotives for Russia which carried forward into the middle of the decade building locomotives for the US Army and US domestic sales.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNAKKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster

1920



My mother, Pauline Kornacka, attended kindergarten at Union Street School [Fig. 2] where North College and Union Streets meet. She first enrolled in the fall term of 1919. The Union Street School was less than half a mile up River Street west on Front, south on North College, across Green to the corner at Union Street, a 10 minute convenient walk for Katie and three young children who needed her attention.

1921

Feliks Kornacki with Bronislawa Andrukewicz and Michael Matulewicz, all of Schenectady, received a charter for a corporation organized with \$3000 in capital to engage in the grocery and meat business under the name Schenectady National Market. Victoria was born on June 19, 1921. Pauline continued at Union Street School walking there herself with her younger brother Joseph in the fall and the spring of 1922.

Fig. 2: Union Street School c.1890-1924

1922

Joseph and Pauline finished the spring term at Union Street School then enrolled in the fall term at St. Mary's School on Irving Street. My mom often told me as we walked to kindergarten at St Mary's how she with Joe walked to school from where John and Green Streets met over the bridge that crossed the empty Erie Canal, to Pine, Warren, and Jay Streets, thru Gleason Alley [gone] to Barrett, up Union, Jackson Streets and Eastern Avenue. Genevieve [Fig.3] was born on June 22.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster

1923



(L) Fig. 3: Pauline & Genevieve c.1923

(R) Fig. 4: Pauline 1923

Riverside School on Front Street was completed but Pauline and Joseph attended both spring and fall terms at St Mary’s School to learn Polish language and Roman Catholic traditions. Josephine enrolled for the fall term and Pauline received first Holy Communion [Fig. 4]



In mid September the first span of the Western Gateway Bridge over the Mohawk River from Scotia to Hog Island, only a few hundred yards west of the garden Feliks and Katie kept on the island, collapsed [Fig.5]. I recall Katie saying that men working on the bridge often bought fresh vegetables from them. I can’t help but imagine Felix in his row boat helping the search and rescue operation.

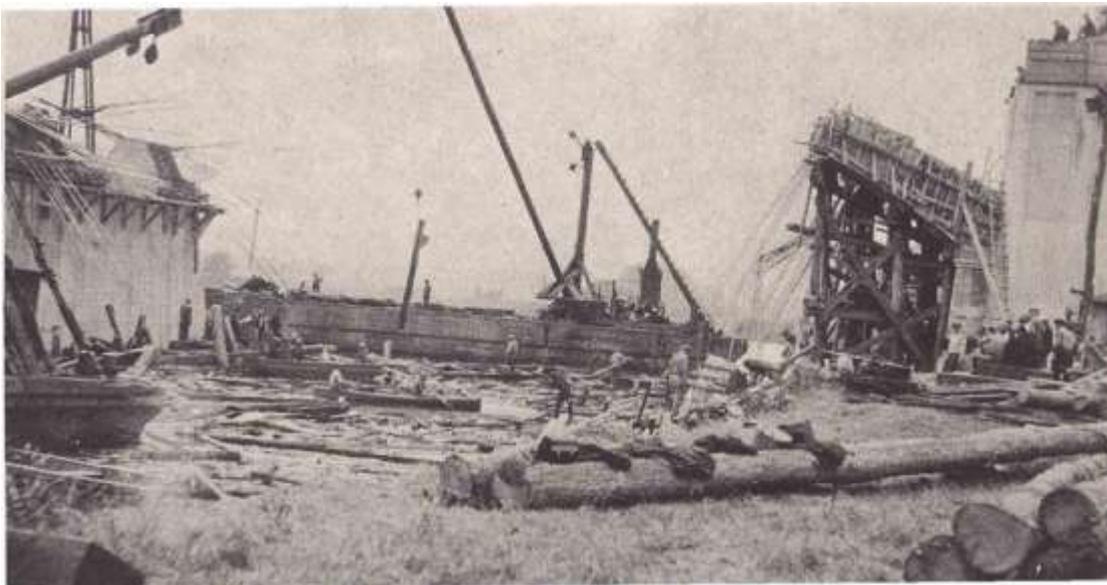


Fig. 5: Western Gateway Bridge Construction Collapse at Scotia to Hog Island Crossing 1923<sup>iii</sup>

1924

Pauline and Joseph attended St Mary’s School to learn the Polish language and Roman Catholic traditions. Josephine enrolled for the fall term.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster

1925

Pauline, Joseph, and Josephine attended St Mary’s School. Joseph received his first Holy Communion [Fig. 6 & Fig. 7]. Feliks and Katie purchased the house at 18 River Street and began making mortgage payments.



Fig. 6: First Holy Communion, Szkole Matki Boskiej Czestochowskiej w Schenectady, New York 1925



Fig. 7: First Holy Communion, Joseph Stanley Kornacki [Center] 1925

1926

Pauline, Joseph, and Josephine attended St Mary’s School and Victoria enrolled in the fall term. The house was wired for electricity. Vincent Konczewski, the proprietor of a soda shop at the corner with John and Front Streets boarded with the Kornacki family.

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster

**1927-1928-1929**

1927 may have been the first year that Felix and Katie began to feel a strain on their finances. There was talk about the loss of income, one with Feliks out of work with a severe bout of rheumatic fever or perhaps with a disease from ingesting water from the Mohawk River and another with Katie unable to work with a broken ankle which somehow got entangled in a trolley track. The details associated with these injuries I do not know.

As of 1925 Feliks and Katie were making mortgage payments<sup>iv</sup>; in 1926 they had their home wired<sup>v</sup> for electricity and in 1927 they probably bought their electric washing machine.

In 1927 there was also the cost of sending four children Pauline, Joseph, Josephine, and Victoria to St Mary’s School. Pauline graduated [Fig. 8 & Fig.9] in the spring but Genevieve took her place and enrolled in the fall.



Fig. 8: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduating Class, Szkoła Matki Boskiej Czystochowskiej w Schenectady, NY 1927



Fig. 9: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduating Class, Pauline Theresa Kornacka [Top Row Center] 1927

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
 Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
 Martin Byster

My mother, Pauline, did not continue with her schooling because, as she often said, “times were tough”, so she took up domestic house work and employment in at the American Laundry to help her family financially turning over all her earnings.

Josephine received first Holy Communion in 1928 [Fig. 10],



Fig. 10: Josephine Kornacka 1928

Gertrude was born and Joseph graduated from St Mary’s in 1929.



The gold coin<sup>vi</sup> that my grandfather received from Czar Nicholas II was used to educate my grandparent’s children, my maternal aunts and uncles, in St. Mary’s School.

To be continued, “The Dirty Thirties”

Appendix A

Previous Newsletter Articles

Title	Newsletter Issue
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 1 Going Home	April 2015 Vol. 2 No. 2
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 2 Coming Home	July 2015 Vol. 2 No. 3
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 3 Pan Feliks Kornacki	October 2015 Vol. 2 No. 4
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 4 The Kornackis	April 2016 Vol. 3 No. 2
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 5 The Kornackis a Destiny	July 2016 Vol. 3 No. 3
Pani Katarzyna Kornacka Part 6 The Mean Teens - The Roaring Twenties (Byster Family History, Continued)	October 2016 Vol. 3 No. 4

PANI KATARZYNA KORNACKA<sup>1</sup>  
Part 7 – The “Roaring Twenties” (continued)<sup>1</sup>  
Martin Byster

End Notes

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<sup>i</sup> 1927; Przybylski, F., Professor; Polish Dance Album No.9; p.7 ... NOTE: “*Dziadunio*” is a polite form of the word for grandfather. It is a synonym with the word “*dziadek*”. I called my grandfather, *dziadunio* Feliks Kornacki, *dziadek*. This arrangement of the Dziadunio Polka, the Clarinet Polka, is particularly pertinent here because it was transcribed in [1927], the ‘20s, the decade where my grandfather with my grandmother created a family to which they committed the rest of their lives. With “Polish” music I am familiar with there are many pieces which evoke particular times and people I remember very well. I share some of that music in what I write. The Clarinet Polka is a memorial to dziadek Feliks Kornacki, my grandfather, which I always carry with me.

<sup>ii</sup> See Part 6

<sup>iii</sup> 1974; Hart, Larry; Schenectady’s Golden Era 1880-1930; p. 262 [Note: Felix and Katie had a garden on Hog Island to the left in this picture. They were witness to the tragedy; however they did not witness the actual collapse.]

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> Ibid.

<sup>vi</sup> See Part 4