

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

October 2018 Vol. 5 No. 4
Our Fifth 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 are January 1st and April 1st. To submit your family story, pictures, etc., e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: abudka@nycap.rr.com. Without your stories, there can be no newsletter. To be added to the newsletter e-mail list, contact Phyllis.

The Schenectady Digital History Archive To find our newsletters on-line:
<http://www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/eer/>

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.

Carole McCarthy is keeping a running list of "Surnames of Polish Ancestors Being Researched in Schenectady County" on the Facebook site.

Brianna Jolie has uploaded several hundred St. Mary's Cemetery gravesites to findagrave.com.

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/>

Polish Origins –

<https://polishorigins.com/>

Website allows one to enter surnames and places of interest; a good website.

Preserving Memories of ALCO

The people who worked for ALCO possess some of the most valuable resources for historians and the community. The ALCO Historical and Technical Society is looking for former employees of ALCO, or their family members, to lend their voice to the oral history of ALCO and Schenectady. To participate, call Jim Cesare, Museum Director, at (716) 238-3768.

<http://www.ahts.org/index.php/museum/oral-history-project/>

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

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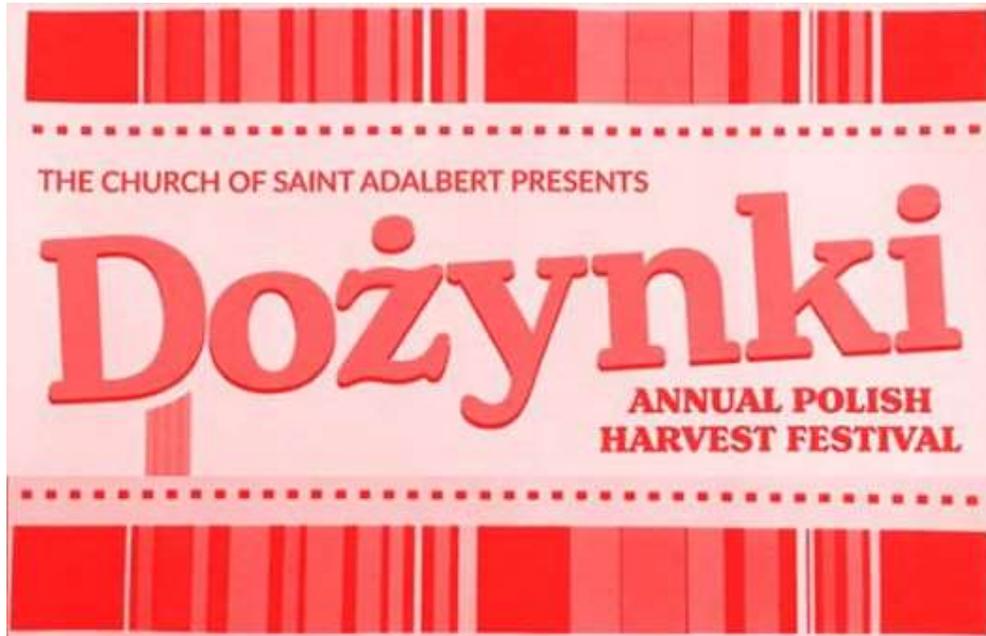
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A Link to Lots of Links Related to Polish Genealogy Bernice Izzo

<https://pgsa.org/research-directory/>

This link will connect you to many databases where you can work on your Polish family history. There are links to Poland, Polish areas in the USA and information about how you can get help with doing your family history. I would suggest that you take a look. You never know what you will find.

October 13 – St. Adalbert's Dozynki Festival



**The Church of St. Adalbert's Annual
Polish Harvest Festival**

Saturday, October 13 11am – 7pm

**St. Gabriel the Archangel in Rotterdam, NY
3040 Hamburg St., Schenectady, NY 12303**

FREE PARKING - FREE ADMISSION

Harvest Blessing at 11AM

Polish Kitchen with takeout available
Bar with domestic and imported beers

Polish Bakery

Children's Games

Basket Raffles

Hourly 50/50 Drawings

Polish Genealogy Workshop - Come say hello

Polish Language Lessons

A Special Performance by Saint Adalbert Dancers

Polka DJ providing music for Dancing all day

Polish Genealogical Society of America - Genealogy Trips To Poland 2019

The PGSA is pleased to offer several genealogy themed tours to Poland in 2019. Based upon a survey, the top requests are for the Austro-Hungarian Partition of Galicia in the south, and the Prussian Partition in the west.

See the PGSA website for itineraries and to sign up at:
<https://pgsa.org/pgsa-2019-genealogy-tours-to-poland/>

Prussian Partition Tours

Prussian Circle 12 days May 11-12, 2019
Prussian Circle 12 days September 7-18, 2019
Prussian Head to Toe 13 days September 9-21, 2019
Prussian Poland 11 days September 14-24, 2019

Galician Partition Tours

Galician Circle 10 days June 5-14, 2019
Galician Circle 10 days September 18-27, 2019
Galicia 12 days June 9-20, 2019
Galicia 12 days Sept. 22 - Oct. 3, 2019

Phyllis's note: I've signed up for the Galicia tour, Sept. 22 – Oct. 3. Come join me!

“Beczaks Mark Silver Wedding”
Schenectady Gazette January 28, 1938
Courtesy of Brianna Jolie

Brianna Jolie writes: Is it just me or was everybody at the Beczak's Silver Wedding Surprise Party in January 1938?

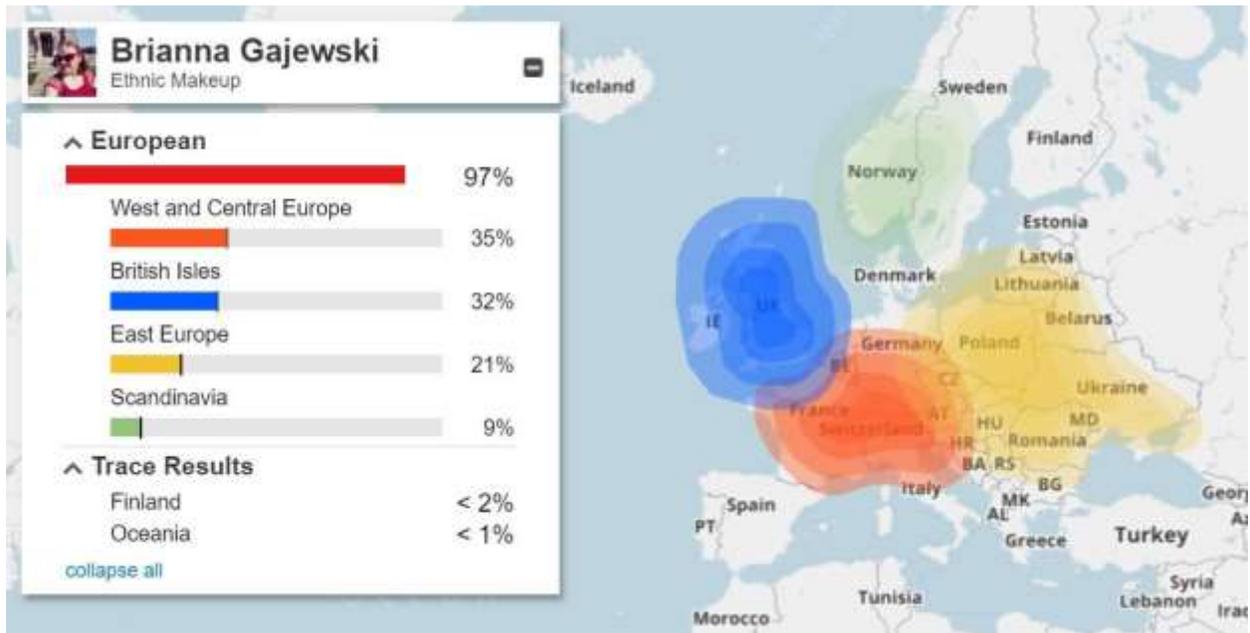
Phyllis's note: The honorees were my husband, Alfred Budka's maternal Grandparents. Brianna is part of our extended family. Thanks to Brianna for sending this in a readable format. Such a list helps those searching family histories.

Mr. and Mrs. John Beczak of 576 Crane street were guests at a surprise party Saturday night at the P.N.A. hall in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. Hosts and hostesses were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wtulich, Mr. and Mrs. Boleslaus Goszewski, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Gajewski, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gajewski, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Budka, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nelson.

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nowicki, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zalewski, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Krawiecki, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jazkiewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ordon, Mr. and Mrs. John Deptola, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Mrozowski, Mr. and Mrs. Ludwik Chrzanowski, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kwapienski, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stepnowski, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zadrozny, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mordawski, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bartosiewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Jeromin, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sobieski, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Duzynski, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Piatkowski, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leszczynski, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Budka, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jankiewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Maliszewski, Mr. and Mrs. Boleslaus Ozarowski, Mr. and Mrs. Wladyslaus Klejsmit, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Banasik, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Krempa, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Piotrowski, Mr. and Mrs. John Michalski, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Kulczyk, Mr. and Mrs. John Napiorkowski, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Wlazinski, Mr. and Mrs. Wladyslaus Spichalski, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kaczmarczyk, Mr. and Mrs. John Toniecki, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dobies, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Dobies, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Tatarek, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Szydlowski, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wojtulewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Zadrozny, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rosiak, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Budka, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jozwiak, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Poltynski, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kopa, Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Szewczak, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Petronis, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Budka, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Przedziecki, Mr. and Mrs. Wladysiaus Stryjek, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tomidajewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Budka, and Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kolod, Ben Budka, Stanley Gajewski, Carl Beczak, Walter Beczak, Mrs. Winifred Nowicka, Mrs. Katherine Dzierwa, Mrs. Karoline Witkowska, Mrs. Marciana Deptola, Mrs. Mary Socha, Mrs. Casimer Piorunek, Mrs. Chester Chlopecka, Mrs. Stephania Kamienska, Mrs. Frank Banaszewska, Mrs. Mary Galka, Mrs. Teofilija Harasimowicz, Mrs. Katherine Styczynska, Mrs. Gene Huzar, Mrs. Michael Huzar, Miss Frances Harasimowicz, Miss Jean Michalska, Miss Alice Karbowska, Miss Sally Karbowska, Miss Lottie

Pisarczyk, Miss Irene Witulich, Miss Jessie Jankiewicz, Miss Mary Piatkowska, Miss Regina Mordawska, Miss Josephine Krawiecka, Miss Helen Krawiecka, and Miss Nellie Wojcik. “

FamilyTreeDNA Brianna Jolie (Gajewski)



Please share your DNA results with us.

The Ins and Outs of Family Research

Bernice Izzo

This is not a story of researching a Polish family history but it is a story of family research. A friend asked if I could look up some information about her Irish grandfather who was born, grew up and died in Brooklyn, New York. She had a name and a date of death. With that, I went to Ancestry, not realizing how many Scullys there were in Brooklyn. After a few minutes, I was able to find his Social Security Death Notice. With further research, I found his grave site with Find A Grave (findagrave.com) and a New York City record listing his death with the death certificate number.

Now that I had that, I went back ward to find his family census records and his marriage record to my friend's Grandmother. (Yes the diocese of Brooklyn has the records listed on Ancestry. Something The Albany diocese should think about.). With the marriage record, I could research the grandmother's family because I had her maiden name. When searching the grandmother, I realized that the great grandmother had married twice. She had three children by the first husband and three children by the second. I was able to trace each one of the children from birth to death. Basically using the census, find a grave, the Brooklyn Church records and the New York City Death records, all of which are listed on Ancestry.

The next thing to do was to trace the great grandmother to see if she had been the one that came from Ireland. But tracing a Fitzgerald, like tracing a Scully in Brooklyn, was a challenge.

We think we found the right Fitzgerald and realized that the great grandmother had come here as a young child. We think we actually found her Irish baptism record. My friend was pleased and delighted that we got that far.

Seeing we did so well with the Irish side, we decided to trace her father's side of the family, which was German. German names are a little easier to trace because their names are so unusual. We found her great grandfather quite easily but I did find something that I had never seen before. The great grandfather had applied for nationalization in 1870 and Ancestry had a copy of the form. It was a simple form about the size of a postcard. All it listed was the country he had come from and where he was living. He lived on Henry Street which is the Lower East Side. I think it surprised me that there was nationalization at that period. I had previously thought that nationalization did not start until Ellis Island was established. Again we traced the family using census records. We know the great grandmother was named Minnie but that was as much as we had until we found the Social Security application for a great aunt. She listed her mother's maiden name. With that information I was able to trace her back to Germany and her church records.

I think you can tell that I really enjoyed doing family history or I hope you can tell. I was glad she asked and pleased that we could find as much as we did. She is a religious so I got paid in prayers, which is not a bad thing.

From Attic to Attic to Attic Phyllis Zych Budka



Paternal Great Grandparents Zofia Penkiewicz Korycinska, Piotr Korycinski and son Antoni.

This picture sat in my attic after my Mother passed away in 2001 until sometime later when I decided to have it professionally restored and try to figure out who these people were. Before its journey to my house, it had been in my mother's attic for several years and in her mother's attic (Babcia Korycinska) attic for MANY years before that. These people must be important, but who were they? And how did that big thing fit into an immigrant's steamer trunk?

The image is of less than finest quality. The large faux wood plaster frame is chipped. The conservator told me that this image was magnified from a small carte de visite* and enlarged in the US - a practice common at the turn of the 20th century, to sell picture frames.

That helped me understand that it had NOT come to the US in a large steamer trunk. One mystery solved.

The conservation work included digital pictures of the image. I sent the image file to cousins in Lithuania and cousin Krystyna Pawlowska-Bernacka, of Torun Poland, an

From Attic to Attic to Attic

Phyllis Zych Budka

avid family genealogist, with the question: "Kto to jest?" Who is this? (My Polish is weak, so I ignored the plural.)

Krystyna responded that the older people are my great grandparents Piotr and Zofia Korycinski; the boy is Antoni, the youngest brother left behind when the 3 Korycinski brothers Peter, my Granddfather, Jozef and Ignacy came to Schenectady in 1911. Krystyna called cousin Antoni (now 90 years old) in Vilnius, and got confirmation that the boy, about 18 at the time of the picture, is Antoni's father, also Antoni.

The picture is back in my attic, now preserved and carefully wrapped.

*carte de visite – A small picture mounted on thicker card (2.5 in. x 4 in.), popular in the late 19th century. Wikipedia

Phyllis's Note: Marty Byster will continue his family story in the next issue.