

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

April 2017 Vol. 4 No. 2  
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 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.

**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.

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

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The Search for My Mysterious Great Grandmother  
Katherine Rajska Brozyna and the Nowy Targ-Schenectady Connection  
Jeff Brozyna



Fig. 1a Katherine Rajska Brozyna and husband John Brozyna-1942



Fig. 1b Katherine Rajska Brozyna, my Grandmother Leola Wtodarczak Brozyna and her father, the elder Francis Wtodarczak-1943



Fig. 1c Great Grandmother Katherine second from left, (l to r) her granddaughter Lorraine, daughter Helen, daughter Bertha, granddaughter Adeline and daughter-in-law Leola Wtodarczak Brozyna. Colorized photo by my Grandfather Joe Brozyna 1946.

In the July 2016 edition of this Newsletter I shared with you the story of my great grandparents, John and Katherine Brozyna (Fig. 1a), and how they came to Schenectady from Poland to start a new life after several years in the Pennsylvania coal region. They arrived here in February of 1899, worked hard, lived on Davis Terrace and Cutler Street in the old 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, raised their family, worshiped at St. Adalbert's Catholic Church and eventually bought a home on Osterlitz Avenue in Bellevue. John worked as a machinist at General Electric, ran a small neighborhood market on Cutler Street in the 1920s and eventually was employed in various other machinist jobs around town. My great

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grandfather had inadvertently left a clear trail for genealogy work. He always gave a consistent date and location of birth in key documents which allowed me to uncover his ancestry in Southeastern Poland. I discovered the painful story of how his parents and siblings died leaving him almost alone in the world at an early age and it touched my heart! He had no choice but to come to America. Fortunately for John, interacting with people in the workplace forced him to open up to the new society he encountered. He learned to read and speak English and reach out of his shell to an extent. He appears to have met American society half way. However, the strict social structure of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century required Katherine to carry the burden of the homemaking and childrearing. She was the one who bore the brunt of the childhood illnesses that killed little Mary, Michael and Anna between 1905 and 1911. Katherine carried the horrible memories of perhaps two more un-named children who died in Pennsylvania just before 1900. As Katherine continued to raise my Grandfather Joseph, as well as Bertha, Helen and Walter, she must have been constantly haunted by the memories of her babies and by the fear that death would return to claim her surviving children! Perhaps as a consequence, my great grandmother seems to have shut herself off from this new American society. She never spoke English, cooked only Polish foods and steadfastly clung to the ways of the old country.

I wanted to know more about my Great Grandmother's story but oral history was scarce and a shroud of mystery soon set in. Katherine died in 1954 when I was only two years old so I never knew her. While growing up, I would ask my grandfather about his parents and he would complain about how they refused to help him financially when he started his retail meat business (which became very successful) and how they tried to dictate his choice of a bride! My Grandmother Leola (Fig. 1b, 1c) said Katherine was always cold to her, she complained a lot and would frequently cuss in Polish. My father Harold and Uncle Paul had little to add since they didn't speak Polish and couldn't understand what their Grandmother Katherine was saying. (Besides, their grandmother couldn't assist them in their two primary pursuits as teenagers: making money and dating girls!) Eventually I found out about their Polish food dishes, music, baking habits, personal preferences but family oral history told me little about Katherine. Where did she come from, what molded her and what was she truly like as a person? Why did she come to the United States and why move to Schenectady? It all was a mystery.

In Feb. 2013 I embarked on a project to fully discover my family background and write family histories of my Irish, German and Polish ancestors to document their stories for our grandchildren. One by one the narratives fell into place but Katherine's story remained obscure. I had little oral history to go on and the documentation told me almost nothing. Her Schenectady death certificate gave me a date of death (June 10, 1954), the name of her father (John Rajski), a date of birth (Nov. 28, 1880), no place of birth and no mother's name. She never told her kids the name of her mother or where in Poland she was born! As I dug deeper, I discovered that Katherine gave a host of dates of birth on various documents, church records, census reports and marriage documents ranging from 1872-1880! Why do that? What was she hiding? (Eventually I was to find that the only accurate information Katherine Rajska gave her children about herself that could be attached to her death certificate was her name!) No computer records were available. I hit a brick wall.

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Fig. 2 St. Anna's Roman Catholic Church, Nowy Targ, Poland, after renovation

A breakthrough happened when my Cousin Joann (Katherine's last surviving granddaughter) discovered a stash of Katherine's important papers behind an old dresser drawer. A photo and promotional material on the 1903 rededication of St. Anna's Catholic Church in Nowy Targ, Poland, given to project donors was found (Fig. 2). This had to be Katherine's home church! Now we had a location to start a Polish record search! In the summer of 2015 my Polish genealogist, Aleksandra Kacprzak, went to search the church records and initial emails were encouraging. "I have found Katherine-daughter of John Rajski-church closing for today-will email tomorrow!" The next day I found that Katherine had died at the age of 5 and could not be my great grandmother! Now what? Aleksandra then chronicled the family tree for John Rajski, his brother Michael Rajski, their parents Jacobus Rajski and Marianna Kowalska, and listed all ancestors and children. Then we thought that maybe my great grandmother used the papers of the deceased Katherine to get into the United States and was in fact, another family member. We narrowed it down to about five candidates born in the 1870s but then hit a brick wall. Once again, the mystery persisted.

Another breakthrough happened when I took the Ancestry.com DNA test in late 2015. While processing the results of my DNA cousins with public family tree sites, I noticed connections to the surnames Sienka and Watychowicz in Galicia and Nowy Targ. John Rajski's brother Michael Rajski was married to Francisca Sienka and she was the daughter of Franciscka Watychowicz! They had a daughter named Katarzyna (Katherine) Rajska born 7 Nov. 1878 and the church records did not show her being married or dying in Nowy Targ. She was the correct age (matching the most frequent year of birth given

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by Katherine in US documents). The list of her siblings in church records included Jacob and Bartholomeus Rajski who lived in the small town of Glen Campbell, Indiana County, PA when Katherine gave birth to my grandfather Joseph Brozyna in June of 1898. Why did Katherine tell her children John Rajski was her father? Her mother Francisca died in 1883 when she was 5 and her father Michael must have sent her to live with her Uncle John Rajski until John and his wife died. Katherine thought of John as her father, not Michael! Why did she not mention her mother's name? Francisca Sienka's father Franciscus Sienka was born in Slovakia and had what Poles considered at the time to be ethnic minority blood on his mother's side. (Apparently, it was embarrassing to be less than 100% Polish!)

By summer 2016 I was 85% sure I had figured out Katherine Rajska's story. In the early 1890s her older brother Jacob Rajski and older sister Maria emigrated to central Pennsylvania and New York City respectively seeking a better future. Brother Bartholomeus joined Jacob by the late 1890s to work in the mines. They married two Wielkiewicz sisters from Nowy Targ. Katherine Rajska sailed for New York city in 1894 and traveled to coal country near Hazleton, PA where she married my great grandfather in June of 1895. Despite the encouragement and support of three of John Brozyna's cousins who were already established there, John agreed to seek greener pastures in Glen Campbell, PA at the insistence of Katherine. Her brothers must have painted a glowing picture of employment opportunities for a machinist in the coal and lumber industries in Indiana County. However, things didn't work out and six months after my grandfather was born, the Brozynas were off to Schenectady in early 1899. The story sounded good but I wasn't 100% certain I had it right.

Late one night in November 2016 I discovered a short posting on Ancestry.com from January 1999. A woman was reaching out for living relatives of her Rajski and Wielkiewicz ancestors. Based on my research, I could identify her grandfather and great uncle as Katherine Rajska's brothers! The posting went on to say that the brothers had a sister who went to Schenectady! There was the proof! Jacob and Bartholomeus were indeed Katherine's brothers and additional documentation that I discovered verified the ancestors I identified in Poland are the correct ones for these siblings. The mystery has been solved! And when I finally connected with my new found distant cousin on the phone to talk about the Rajski family history 18 years after she reached out into the unknown for answers, it brought us great joy!

One last question: why would John and Katherine go to Schenectady? Of course, there was work to be had at the Locomotive Works and GE. However, I think it was a personal recommendation. Phyllis Zych Budka is a co-founder of this Newsletter and when she was giving a presentation at our church I noticed the surnames Watychowicz and Wielkiewicz on a slide of her ancestors. As it turns out, Phyllis' Schenectady ancestor Jozef Zych from Nowy Targ was related to Katherine Rajska Brozyna on his maternal grandmother's side through Watychowicz and Katherine's two sisters-in-laws in PA were Wielkiewicz sisters! The Zychs and Brozynas lived very close to each other on both Davis Terrace and Cutler Street! Both Jozef and John worked at GE. Jozef arrived in Schenectady in 1898 and found work. He may well have written the Rajsks in PA to tell

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them about the opportunities in Schenectady and it was the Brozyna family that responded in 1899. They joined a group of perhaps 50 Polish families with a Nowy Targ connection in Schenectady.

Katherine Rajska was orphaned by the age of 12. She was forced to emigrate to the US at the age of 15.5 years as there was no future for her in Europe. She probably got some support briefly from her sister in New York City and from her brothers but she had to be independent and tough. She worked as a servant girl in a PA mining camp until she married. When she was too young she misrepresented her age to get work and to get married without parental consent. She buried five of her nine children. In 1946 she buried her husband. Even though she was resilient, she recognized she could not survive without her family and the church. Her experiences made her cautious, controlling, and suspicious of the new society around her. She must have found comfort in the old beliefs and traditions. Her children stayed close, her daughters were emotionally supportive and her sons helped out financially. Her husband did the best he could. She did the best she could. She appears to have been a tough woman who had to endure a hard life. They were like so many immigrants to this country. They were not welcomed here at first but they persevered and built a better future in what had to be for them a very strange, new society.

A Saint Adalbert Scrapbook 1941-1950 Part 1

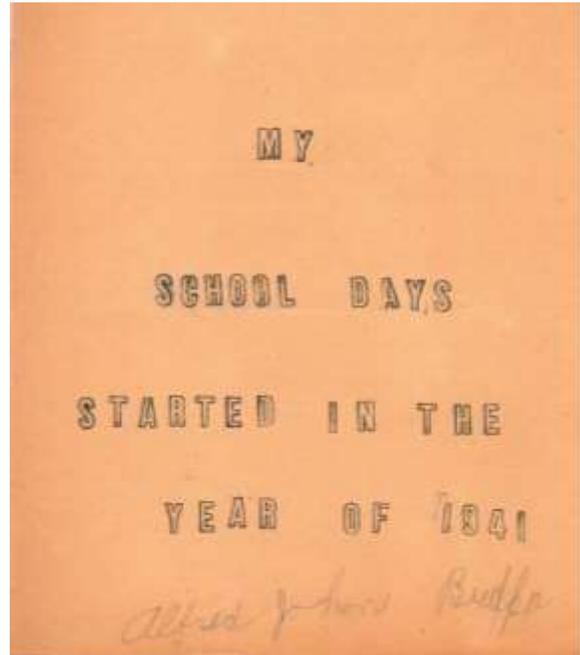
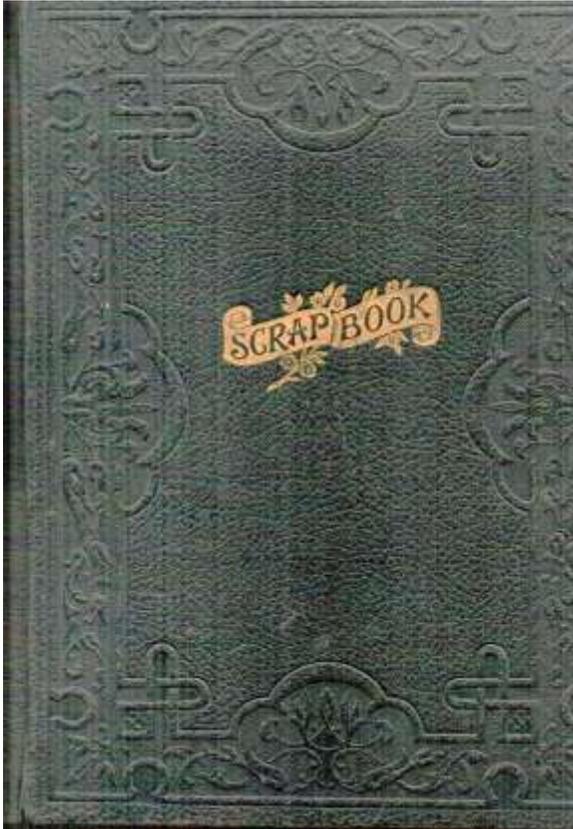
Compiled By Henrietta Beczak Budka

Comments by Phyllis Zych Budka

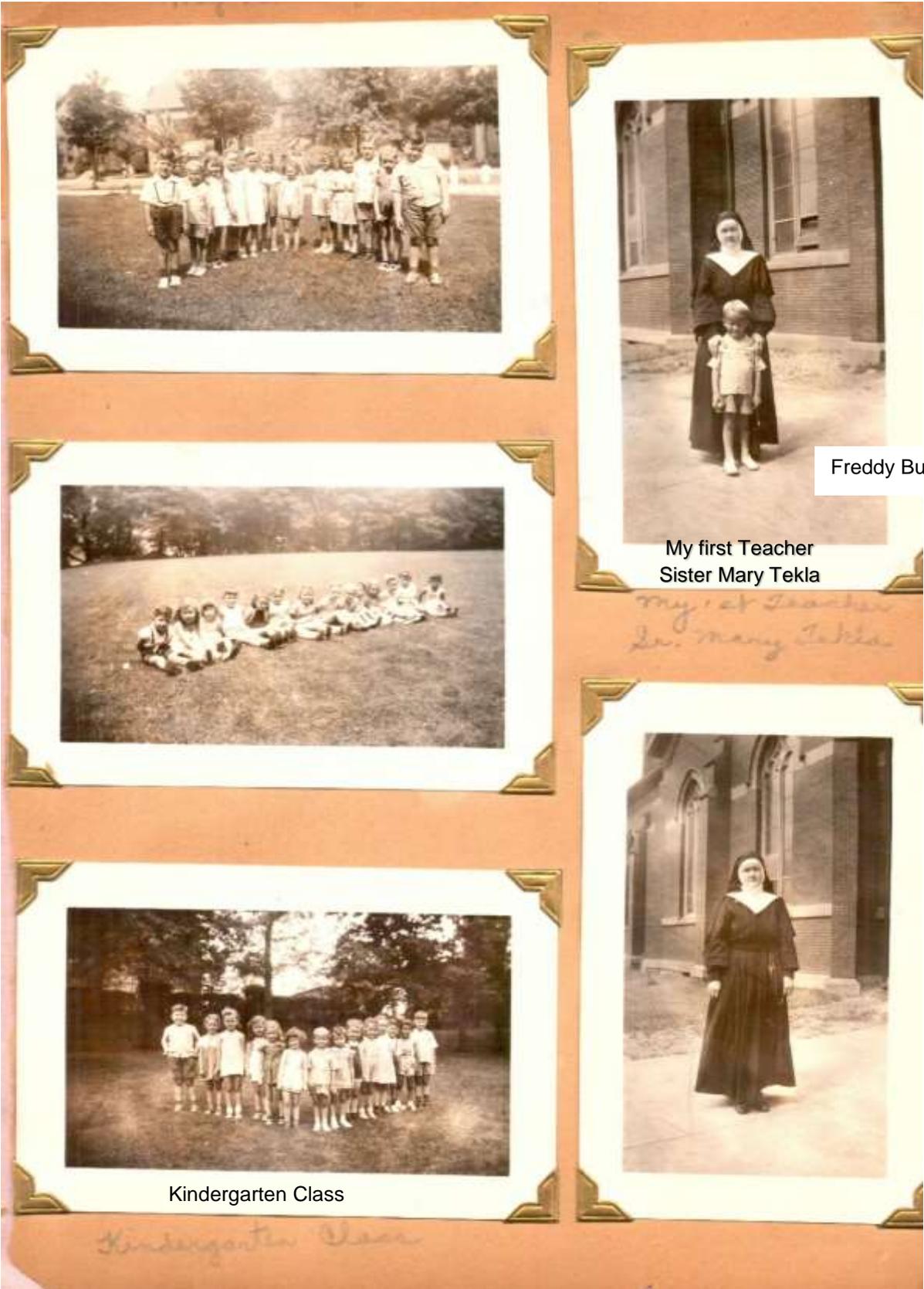
As I contemplate the start of the digital capture of a second family scrapbook, I ask myself: Why bother? Who cares? In high school, history was my least favorite subject. However, in the process of working on genealogy and local family history, I am realizing the importance of capturing a small slice of my childhood community, which no longer exists. So I will dive in!

My husband, Alfred (Freddy, Fredziu, Al) John Budka (1936-1992), and I grew up in Schenectady's Mont Pleasant / St. Adalbert's Polish-American Church and school (K-8) community. Al was 6 years ahead of me in school, so I didn't really know him until my college days. Al was an only child, the son of Henrietta (Beczak) and Walter Budka. The scrapbook, compiled by Henrietta with comments in her beautiful handwriting (Palmer method), is a remarkably complete history of Al's K-8 St. Adalbert years.

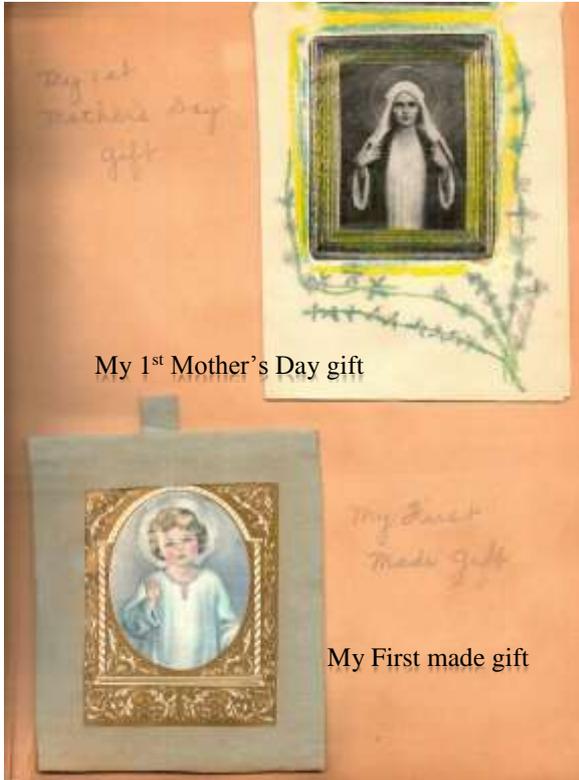
The scrapbook illustrates that our lives were centered around church and school events and holidays. Its pages are fragile, crumbling. With my trusty hand scanner, I will share some pages in each newsletter. Some readers may recognize names and faces from our shared past.



A Saint Adalbert Scrapbook 1941-1950 Part 1  
Compiled By Henrietta Beczak Budka  
Comments by Phyllis Zych Budka  
My Kindergarten Years 1941 - 1942

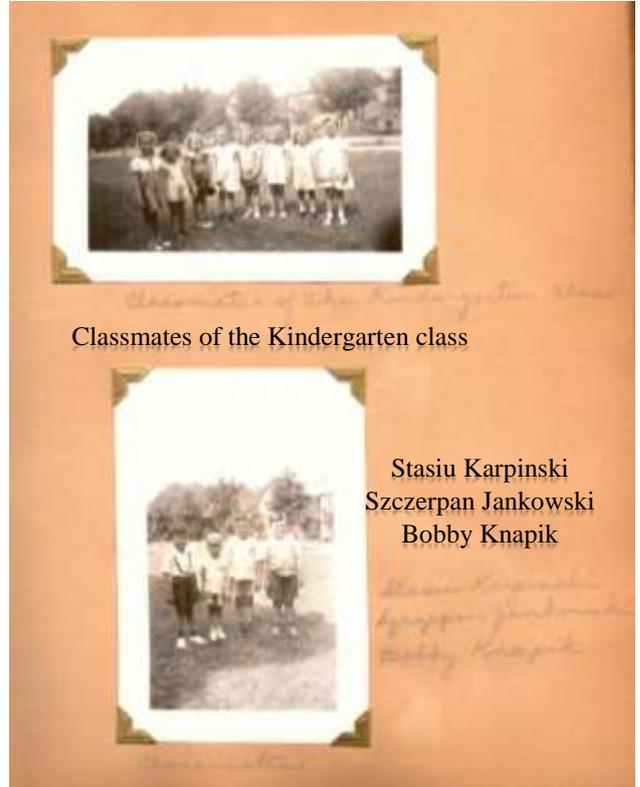


A Saint Adalbert Scrapbook 1941-1950 Part 1  
Compiled By Henrietta Beczak Budka  
Comments by Phyllis Zych Budka



My 1<sup>st</sup> Mother's Day gift

My First made gift



Classmates of the Kindergarten class

Stasiu Karpinski  
Szczerpan Jankowski  
Bobby Knapik

## Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation Martin Byster

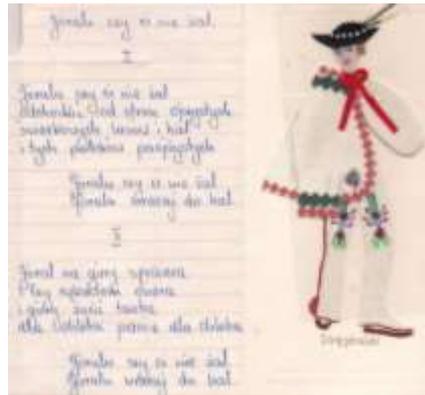


Fig. 1: "Góralu, Czy Ci Nie Żal"<sup>1</sup>

At the beginning of the thirties, Katie, Pani Katarzyna Kornacki, had an extended family in Schenectady, New York; her own<sup>2</sup> on River Street; her sister Mary's<sup>3</sup>, the Rybickis, on Alexander Street; the Dobies'<sup>4</sup> cousin Anthony's on Ingersoll Avenue; cousin Frank's on North Street and brother-in-law John Kornacki's<sup>5</sup> near Saint Mary's Church on Eastern Avenue. Twenty three children, first generation Americans had been born and the youngest Andrew, John's son, still to come in 1933.

The Great Depression was in the making following a sudden and devastating collapse of U.S. stock market on Black Tuesday October 29, 1929. The US unemployment rate was nearly 10% and increasing rapidly.

Feliks was working as a laborer in the Tank Shop of the American Locomotive Company and was fortunate to have a job. Pauline, my mother, finished elementary school and rather than continue with high school began working as a domestic housekeeper in homes, within the General Electric Realty Plot<sup>6</sup>; it was a decision she justified, saying her family needed the money. And indeed they did need money to keep three children in Saint Mary's School, pay city property taxes, home owner's insurance and principle with interest on a \$2300 bond<sup>7</sup> to which they mortgaged their home in 1925. It was only with the generosity of their good neighbors Franciszek and Wladyslawa Lencewicz, their next door neighbors, who loaned them the money, that Katie and Felix were able to continue to make semi-annual interest payments and extend the final payment (Fig. 2) on principle originally due on July 1, 1930 until 1941, 11 years later.

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<sup>1</sup> "Góralu, Czy Ci Nie Żal" Although this Polish folk song raises the emotions of a young man leaving his homeland in the Tatra Mountains in southern Poland, it was sung by many Poles reminiscing for their homeland while facing the trials and tribulations of a worldwide depression which tested their mettle.

<sup>2</sup> APPENDIX A1

<sup>3</sup> APPENDIX A2

<sup>4</sup> APPENDIX A3

<sup>5</sup> APPENDIX A4

<sup>6</sup> Part 4

<sup>7</sup> Part 6

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
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Fig. 2: Receipts: Final principle and interest payments on a \$2300 mortgage bond

On the day full payment on principle was due, only \$500 had been paid. Subsequent receipts indicate that payments on principle did not get any better; on New Year 1940, less than half the principle had been paid. The most difficult times were in 1931, 1932 and 1933, when no payments on principle were made

Early on, the Kornackis took on Vincent Konczewski as a boarder. He was a proprietor of a soda shop (perhaps a.k.a. a “speak easy”) and as the story goes, according to Katie herself, she tried her hand at making bath tub gin, beer and wine which was bottled which were then delivered by Pauline and Joe in a small wagon. When Konczewski closed his shop the tables, chairs, bar-stools and soda glasses were stored with the Kornackis. All that together with large glass jugs of wine, bottles, bottle caps, and bottle cappers remained as in the house as artifacts of those times until they slowly disappeared in the 50s, except for the soda glasses, which are still cherished in the family.

In 1930 the first floor was rented at \$20/month to Anthony Richute, his wife Lucy and their eight children. Later my father and mother, Benjamin and Pauline Byster (Fig. 5), were married and rented the apartment for \$16/month.

It was an all hands effort to keep the house. Katie, with her electric washing machine, did laundry for customers in the GE Realty Plot and kept a garden in the back yard. Feliks kept a garden on Hog Island near the Western Gateway Bridge<sup>8</sup> and raised hops for the beer along the north side of the house. Pauline, at 16, was working for Doctor McGauly. Joe (Fig. 3) finished Nott Terrace High School and entered the GE Schenectady Works apprentice training program.

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<sup>8</sup> Part 7

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
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**Fig. 3: Joseph Kornacki, apprentice at work**

Josephine finished high school and worked locally, perhaps as an office assistant for Doctor Edmund D Colby, near Saint Mary's Church on Eastern Avenue. She appeared in local theatricals before entering Mount Sinai School of Nursing in New York City.

Vicky graduated high school in 1939; Janet was in high school, Gert was in elementary school.



**Fig. 4: Feliks Kornacki, citizen of the United States of America**

In 1935, Feliks Kornacki became a citizen of the United States (Fig. 4)

In 1936, Pauline Kornacki married Benjamin Bystry (a.k.a., Byster) (Fig. 5). Both were employed full time, Pauline worked at the American Laundry while Benjamin worked at the General Electric works as a machinist.

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
Martin Byster



**Fig. 5: Pauline and Benjamin Byster<sup>9</sup>**

Little by little over the second half of the “Dirty Thirties”, Pani Katarzyna Kornacki and her extended family with the help of neighbors and an improving US economy pulled themselves up by their bootstraps to turn loose a first generation of natural born Polish-Americans.

TO BE CONTINUED

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<sup>9</sup> Figure 5: Back row, left to right Theodore Byster, Benjamin’s brother; Benjamin and Pauline Byster; Josephine Kornacki, Maid of Honor, Pauline’s sister; Henry Pach, Best Man; Joseph Kornacki, Pauline’s brother. Seated left unknown; right Janet Jankowski, Pauline’s neighbor, 16 River Street

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
Martin Byster

**APPENDIX A1**

**Extended Family Feliks & Katie Kornacki**

**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 CZESTOCHOWACEMETERY; 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 CZESTOCHOWACEMETERY; SCHENECTADY, NY
Father:	ADAM BOREK
Mother:	APOLONIA DOBIES
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	Name: APOLONIA (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

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
Martin Byster

**APPENDIX A2**  
**An Extended Family Rybicki**

Family Group Sheet for ADAM RYBICKI

<b>Husband: ADAM RYBICKI</b>	
Birth:	1878 in ELZBIECIN POLAND
Death:	SCHENECTADY NY, USA
Marriage:	24 Jun 1901 in St Mary's Church, Schady NY
Father:	BARTHOLOMAE RYBICKI
Mother:	EWKA TRZOSINSKA
<b>Wife: MARIANNA BORDK</b>	
Birth:	1882 in PARLIN ELZBIECIN POLAND
Death:	SCHENECTADY NY, USA
Father:	ADAM BOREK
Mother:	APOLONIA DOBBS
<b>Children:</b>	
1	Name: BOLESLAW (WILLIAM) (BILLIE) RYBICKI
M	Birth: 1917 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: BOLESLAW'S (W. KATI) RYBICKI
2	Name: CZESLAW (CHESTER) RYBICKI
M	Birth: Jul 1919 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: CZESLAW'S (W. RAULINE) RYBICKI
3	Name: KLARA (CLAR) RYBICKI
F	Birth: 1911 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: HUSBAND of KLARA RYBICKI BALOU
4	Name: EDWARD RYBICKI
M	Birth: 1923 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: EDWARDS (W. T) RYBICKI
5	Name: FRANK (FRANK) RYBICKI
M	Birth: 1922 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: FRANK'S (W. MYRTLE) RYBICKI
6	Name: REGINA RYBICKI
F	Birth: 1908 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: REGINA (H. GARRETT SPENCE) RYBICKI
7	Name: WLADISLAW (WALTER) RYBICKI
M	Birth: 1906 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Death: 2001
	Spouse: ELIZABETH DOBRANSKI
8	Name: STANISLAWA (ESTELLE) RYBICKI
F	Birth: 1918 in SCHENECTADY NY, USA
	Spouse: HERB HORINE

**Notes:**

BOLESLAW (WILLIAM) (BILLIE) RYBICKI  
Served in the US Navy

KLARA (CLAR) RYBICKI  
Believe Clarence is also on her an ancestor.

Family Group Sheet for ADAM RYBICKI

<b>Notes (cont):</b> Carl and her husband divorced. School teacher in San Francisco Carl set lived in San Francisco California
<b>EDWARD RYBICKI</b> Served in the US Navy on Sub Chaser SC-438 Nickname "nut-jaw"
<b>FRANK (FRANK) RYBICKI</b> Served in the US Navy aboard USS Durig DD-584 Mechanical Mate/MT Chief Lived in Louisiana Paid off his parents home mortgage before leaving for the US Navy
<b>WLADISLAW (WALTER) RYBICKI</b> Wife Betty Elizabeth Dobranski was from Buffalo Served aboard the USS Arizona BB-39 a fleet was home ported on west coast early 1920s Served aboard submarine out of San Diego Walter Rybicki: LI USN Ret 1954
<b>STANISLAWA (ESTELLE) RYBICKI</b> Stevedore on an ocean liner lived at 205 Hudson Street, Johnson City, NY

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
Martin Byster

**APPENDIX A3**  
**An Extended Family Dobies**

**Family Group Sheet for ANTONI DOBIES**

<b>Husband:</b> ANTONI DOBIES	
Marriage:	USA
Father:	JOHN DOBIES (SON)
Mother:	MARCIN BOREK (DAU-T)
<b>Wife:</b> KATARZYNA JASKULA	
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1	Name: WILLIAM (BILL) DOBIES
M	Birth: 1921 in USA
	Spouse: WIFE of BILL DOBIES (?) ZIELINSKA
2	Name: NATALIE DOBIES
F	Birth: 21 Jan 1917 in USA
	Spouse: CHARLES LASKOWSKI (LASKY)
3	Name: WANDA DOBIES
F	Birth: 1920 in USA
	Spouse: HUSBAND of WANDA DOBIES RELYER
4	Name: JEANETTE DOBIES
F	Birth: 1926 in USA
	Spouse: HUSBAND of JEANETTE DOBIES (?) ZIEGLER

**Notes**

**ANTONI DOBIES**

Anton and Frank Dobies are brothers who both lived in Schenectady, NY. The 1910 Census lists them both living on Mohawk AV, the 1920 Census living on River ST, in 1930 Anton and his Family were living on Ingersoll AV. Frank and his family were living on North ST. Anton's daughter Natalie later married Charles Laskowski and also lived in Schenectady on Ingersoll AV.

Anthony, his wife Kathryn and their family name is listed as Dobies rather than Dobies.

Anton and Frank are the sons of Katherine Borek Komacki's mother (Agostina Dobies)'s brother and her father (Adam Borek)'s sister.

Katherine Borek, arrival in the US, first boarded with her cousins at 18 River ST where later she and her spouse Feliks eventually first rented then eventually bought.

**Family Group Sheet for FRANK DOBIES**

<b>Husband:</b> FRANK DOBIES	
Birth:	1896 in Poland (Russian)
Marriage:	USA
Father:	JOHN DOBIES (SDR)
Mother:	MARCIN BOREK (DAU-T)
<b>Wife:</b> KATARZYNA (CADEI) GAJESHA	
Birth:	1896 in Poland (Russian)
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1	Name: GENE DOBIES
M	Birth: 16 Oct 1916 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse: WIFE of GENE DOBIES
2	Name: JOSEPH DOBIES
M	Birth: 1912 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse: WIFE of JOSEPH DOBIES
3	Name: THEODORE DOBIES
M	Birth: 1922 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death: 1993
	Spouse: ALICE BARTNICKA
4	Name: VICTORIA DOBIES
F	Birth: 1920 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage: Not Married
	Spouse: Not Married

**Notes**

**FRANK DOBIES**

Anton and Frank Dobies are brothers who both lived in Schenectady, NY. The 1910 Census lists them both living on Mohawk AV, the 1920 Census living on River ST, in 1930 Anton and his Family were living on Ingersoll AV. Frank and his family were living on North ST. Anton's daughter Natalie later married Charles Laskowski and also lived in Schenectady on Ingersoll AV.

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Anton and Frank are the sons of Katherine Borek Komacki's mother (Agostina Dobies)'s brother and her father (Adam Borek)'s sister. Katherine Borek, arrival in the US, first boarded with her cousins at 18 River ST where later she and her spouse Feliks eventually first rented then eventually bought.

**GENE DOBIES**

Gene worked for the Coca Cola bottling works in Schenectady NY

**JOSEPH DOBIES**

Joe lived in Utica NY

**THEODORE DOBIES**

Theodore lived in Utica and occasionally visited the Komacki on River Street.

Part 8 - A Polish-American Generation  
Martin Byster

**APPENDIX A4**  
**An Extended Family John Kornacki**

**Family Group Sheet for JAN (JOHN) KORNACKI**

<b>Husband:</b> JAN (JOHN) KORNACKI	
Birth:	19 Jun 1892 in PARAFIA MLODZIESZYN, POLAND
Death:	01 Oct 1986 in SCHENECTADY, NY
Marriage:	SCHENECTADY, NY
Father:	ANDRZEJ KORNACKI
Mother:	TEOFILA WRZESINSKA
<b>Wife:</b> ANNA BUCZINSKA	
Birth:	11 Oct 1911 in POLAND
Death:	03 Nov 2002
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	Name: ANDREW KORNACKI
	Birth: 12 Jan 1933 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Death: 14 Dec 2002
	Marriage: SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse: ANNETTE
2 F	Name: PAULINE KORNACKI
	Birth: 1928 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Marriage: 1951 in SCHENECTADY, NY
	Spouse: LOUIS ZAMPELLA

## Three Kinds of Self-Publishing Phyllis Zych Budka

**A. Project To Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots Newsletter** – Collection individual stories – short, one shot or multi-chapter over several issues.

1. Microsoft Word – Many authors; Lightly edited
2. All electronic
3. Free
4. Distribution list – local, national, international 200+ names
5. Links: Schenectady County Public Library – Schenectady Digital History Archive AND Schenectady County Historical Society

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

**B. Compilation – Everything I know about my Zych Grandparents** – revised edition

1. Used PowerPoint – great for image-intensive document
2. Printed at copy center - small, inexpensive run for family – 42 pages

**C. Book – “The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933-1942)”**

1. Struggle with appropriate software
  - a. Word is best
  - b. PowerPoint great for images
  - c. Mixed – can cause challenges
2. Printed interim drafts in black and white at copy center – 5 cents per page – my printer eats ink
3. Scanned everything; retyped newspaper articles because of scan quality; used jpg and 300 dpi. For difficult, fragile text, get a hand scanner.
4. Connected with Moonrise Press, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, who suggested Lulu.com and did the layout gratis. Guided me through the publication process. We split profit, if any.
5. The print version, soft cover, no color, costs \$30 plus \$5 S&H; the downloadable, electronic version is color for \$10. The unexpected advantage of the electronic version: cousins and friends in Poland and Lithuania downloaded it!

Donate copies to Schenectady County Historical Society and Public Library

Paper lasts longer!

Sense of accomplishment and peace!