

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

November 2014 Vol. 1 No. 5

Welcome to our fifth newsletter! The Project is now one year old!

Our objective is to discover, document and digitally preserve genealogy, stories, and pictures of Schenectady County's Eastern European immigrants. We're on our way, but we need each of you to share family history, help pass the (electronic) word and perhaps participate in the Projects listed on page 16.

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We need your stories! The next deadline is January 1st. Future deadlines will be April 1st, July 1st and October 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.

Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms We're On TV and the Internet!

Thanks to Janice Thompson, Producer and Host of "The Janice Thompson Show," and the Schenectady Access Cable Council, (www.schenectadyaccess.org), on September 18, 7 members of our Project community were filmed sharing information and memories of our Polish heritage. To view the results of our efforts, Google: polish heritage a tree that blossoms.

News Flash: The program on local TV channel 16 is airing for the first time as I write this at 4pm Wednesday November 19th. Parts of the program will be on for the next 4 weeks at the following times: Wednesdays at 4, Fridays at 5; Sundays at 10 am. Please confirm by checking the program schedule at the OpenStageMedia website.

Open stage media.com – program schedule – public access – Janice Thompson Show

You can see the programs at any time on the internet; best view is on YouTube:

[Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 1 - Janice ...](#)

www.schenectadyaccess.org/index.php?...

Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 1 - Janice Thompson Show, The.

[Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 2 - Janice ...](#)

www.schenectadyaccess.org/index.php?...

Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 2 - Janice Thompson Show, The.

[Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part ... - YouTube](#)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-Scg-cOZhA

6 days ago - Uploaded by Schenectady Access Cable Council

Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 2 - Janice Thompson Show, The. Schenectady Access Cable ...

[Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part ... - YouTube](#)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4cW_7IYE7M

7 days ago - Uploaded by Schenectady Access Cable Council

Our Polish Heritage: A Tree That Blossoms - Part 1 - Janice Thompson Show, The. Schenectady Access Cable ...

**Excerpts from “The Slovak Family of
Johann B. Gotlib Rabovsky and
Ludmilla Horvanec Sefcovic”
Compiled in 2002 by Janet Elizabeth Ferris Coleman – with thanks to Joanne
McKeon**

The Johann B. Gotlib Rabovsky Family

JOHANN AND LUDMILLA

In the late 1800's when Johann and Ludmilla lived in their home country, it was called Austria/Hungary. Ludmilla was born in the village of Kutý, Hungary, and Johann was from a nearby village (probably Kutý also). Kutý is a town, 35 miles northwest of Bratislava, Slovakia's capital city, near where the borders of Austria, Slovakia Republic and Czech Republic join.



Johann and Ludmilla did not meet until after they came to the United States. From Ellis Island, Johann went to Union Hill near Buffalo (star on map) and Ludmilla went to New York City. Other Slovaks had immigrated to NYC and they met each other in that settlement. After their marriage and the birth of their son, Joseph, they moved to Piermont, NY, where their first daughter, Alzbetha, and their second son, William, was born. They then moved to Schenectady, NY, where they had the rest of their children and lived the rest of their lives. Johann was a farmer in Kutti but worked for General Electric Company once he came to Schenectady, NY.



Excerpts from “The Slovak Family of
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The Johann B. Gotlib Ralbovsky Family

FIRST GENERATION

Johann (Jan/John) B. Gotlib Ralbovsky

B: 3-11-1883 Kutu, Hungary
D: 2-18-1962 Schenectady, NY

(Age 23)

Ludmilla (Millie) Horvanec Sefcovic

B: 2-25-1886 Kutu, Hungary
D: 7-03-1978 Schenectady NY

(Age 20)

Married January, 1906
New York, New York



Johann and Ludmilla had nine children – Joseph Gotlib, Alzbetha Gotlib, William Gottlieb, Anna, Ludmilla, Helen, John Gotlib, Frank John, and Mary Lillian.

They are buried in SS Cyril and Methodius Cemetery on Duanesburg Road, in Schenectady, NY.

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The Johann B. Gotlib Ralbovsky Family

Family Names

Johann Bupt (?) Ralbofsky is the name on our relative's birth certificate. In Slovakia, he went by the name of "Jan." When coming to this country, the registrar at Ellis Island recorded his name as Jan Gotlib. He became Jan Ralbovsky Gotlib. On June 3, 1933, his name was legally changed to John Gotlib Ralbovsky. On his birth certificate, his father was listed as Johann Ralbofsky and his mother as Elizabeth Valachovik. On October 18, 1924, John received a Certificate of Literacy. John became a Naturalized Citizen on February 1, 1947.

The name "Gotlib" appears in his name either as a middle name or last name. No one seems to know where the name "Gotlib" came from, if our family name was Ralbovsky. JoAnne Ralbovsky McKeon was told that Jan took the name of the owner of the farm where he worked. Whether or not this is true, we don't know. Jerry Ralbovsky remembers his grandfather telling him that he thought his name sounded Jewish so he took the maiden name of his wife. This can't be true because he was single when he came to this country. I also remember asking grandma why we weren't Jewish or German seeing we had Gotlib as a name, but she answered that we were Slovaks. I never got an answer to my question. In our family it is spelled three different ways: Gotlieb/Gottlieb/Gotlib which is a German name for "Loves God."

The meaning of Ralbofsky is not clear. According to the suffix "sky," it could be derived from some place or area called Ralbof, Ralbofa, Ralbofe, or Ralbobob and could be some old name for a village or hill. Consequently, Ralbofsky means something like: from Ralbof or a man who came from Ralbof. It's possible Ralbofsky name has a noble origin. Noble people had names according to a place where they had their land and properties. (Somehow, I don't we were from nobility; if his parents were caretakers of an estate.)

Ludmilla's family name was Sefcovic (pronounced "SHEF-cho-veech") which is spelled "S'efc'ik" and means Shoemaker. The South Slavic surname affix of ic'/vic' (pronounced ovich) means "son of." In the Slovak Pride Book, www.jarerelative.com, the name Sefcovic is listed as being from Kutty, Nitra County, Hungary (where Ludmilla was from), by a descendant named Robbins and Sefcovic. On her Baptism paper, her parents are listed as Joannes Sefcovic and Anna Riska. Ludmilla received her Certificate of Naturalization on January 31, 1944. Ludmilla went by "Millie" here in the United States and her middle name may not be correct. I found the name in notes that Elizabeth Ferris had left.

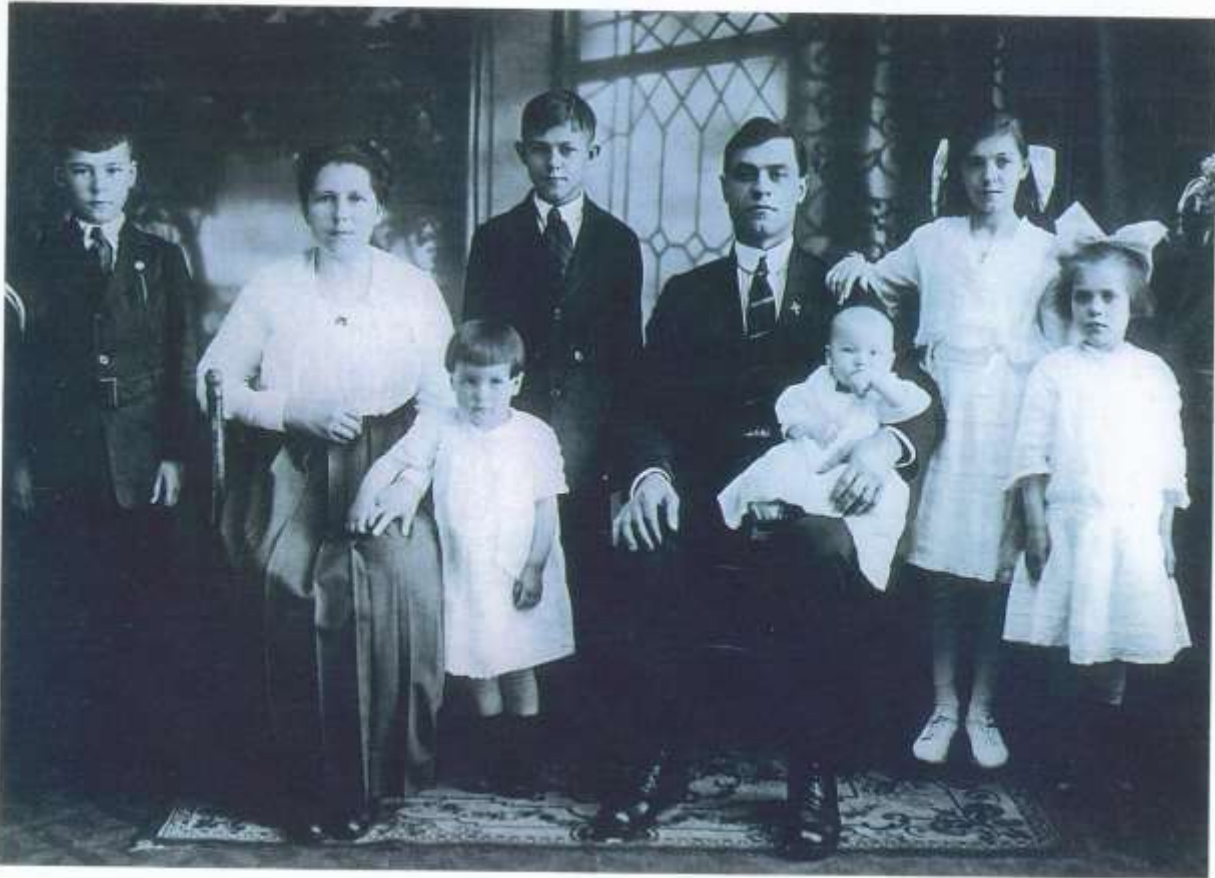
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The Johann B. Gotlib Ralbovsky Family

YOUNG FAMILY – 1920

Johann and Ludmilla with six of their nine children. Young Ludmilla had died in 1917 and Frank and Mary were not born at this time.

William, Ludmilla, Joseph, Jan, Alzbetha, Anna. Front row, Helen and baby, John.



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The William Rabovsky Family

SECOND GENERATION

William (Bill) Gottlieb Rabovsky

B: 8-6-1911 Piermont, NY
D: 7-26-1997 Greenfield Center, NY

Helena (Helen) Godlewski

B: 1-25-1914 Brooklyn, NY
D: 6-25-1995 Schenectady, NY

Married on November 5, 1938
St. Adalbert's Church
Schenectady, NY



Bill and Helen had two children – JoAnne and William Gottlieb Rabovsky. They were buried in SS Cyril and Methodius Cemetery.

The William Rabovsky Family

THIRD GENERATION

JoAnne Rabovsky

B: 9-27-1939 Schenectady, NY

Raymond Ward McKeon

B: 4-30-1932 Troy, NY
D: 12-26-1997 Greenfield Center, NY

Married on September 6, 1958
St. Adalbert's Church
Schenectady, NY



JoAnne and Ward had five children – Theresa Jo, Matthew Ward, Monica Helen, Merck William and Amanda Lucy McKeon. Ward was buried in the Greenfield Center Cemetery, Greenfield Center, NY. JoAnne McKeon, RD 1, 937 Locust Grove Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. www.mvjojoik@aol.com

From East to West and Back Again

Phyllis Zych Budka

The website, “New Eastern Europe,” which had become a favorite, (<http://www.neweasterneurope.eu/>) in the spring of 2012 read: “The English Quarterly, *New Eastern Europe*, the Polish Bimonthly, *Nowa Europa Wschodnia*, the Polish publisher *Czarne* invite you to take part in this summer’s competition “From East to West”. If you are travelling to (or live in) a country that was once a part of the former Soviet Union – we invite you to submit a report or a story from your travels.” The deadline was the fall. I HAD to enter! As a result, I won a one year’s subscription to the “New Eastern Europe” hard copy journal and am now a faithful scribe. Here’s what I wrote:

From East to West and Back Again

The pictures from Great Uncle Antoni’s recent 84th birthday party arrived in my e-mail the other day, sent by his daughter Janina. Here were his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, most of whom I had met in Vilnius in 2010. I can still remember the group of smiling people who met me at the Vilnius train station, holding a sign with my name. I was the first American relative to visit them in Lithuania and their joy at my coming is something I will never forget (Fig 1a, b).



1a Great Uncle Antoni Korycinski with daughter Janina greet me at the Vilnius train station. August 2010



1b Great Uncle Antoni Korycinski, Great Aunt Stasia and family welcome me (in pink) to their home in Vilnius. August 2010

My grandfather and Antoni’s uncle, Peter Korycinski, was an ethnic Pole from Russian-ruled Lithuania. He came to Schenectady, New York USA, from Zailgy with his two brothers, Ignacy and Joseph, in 1911, leaving parents, two sisters and his youngest brother, Antoni, behind. My maternal grandmother, Victoria Gzyms Korycinska, was born in Bopty, also in Russian-ruled Lithuania, of a German father and an ethnic Polish mother. In 1911, she followed her two brothers to Schenectady, arriving in 1911 with her parents and a sister.

Peter met Victoria in Schenectady and they were married in 1916. Their first child, Peter Francis, was born in 1917; my mother, Sophie, came along a year later. Wanda and Alexander rounded out the family.

As I sit at my kitchen table and click the link near the top of the list on my laptop’s browser, <http://www.thenews.pl/>, I travel electronically from my Schenectady home to the lands all four of my grandparents left more than 100 years ago. My interest in the “News from Poland” and the “New Eastern Europe”, in general, stems from four trips to Poland between 1999 and 2011 and one to Lithuania in 2010, as well as the personal ties I feel to this region. Meeting cousins and searching for family ties ruptured by time and wars have left me with a desire to know more about their histories and, especially, who and where

From East to West and Back Again

Phyllis Zych Budka

my relatives in the New Eastern Europe are today.

Contact with grandfather Peter Korycinski's family was lost from the late 1950s, following the deaths of the 3 immigrant brothers, until about 1970. My family's history compiled by my first cousin Jane Korycinski Smith, recounts how, at that time, my uncle Peter (Jane's father) made a Radio Free Europe broadcast, speaking as a Polish American who had achieved a high position at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A man in Krakow wrote a letter to Uncle Peter asking if there might be a family connection. Uncle Peter, who lived in Virginia, sent this letter to my mother, Sophie Korycinski Zych, in Schenectady, who was fluent in Polish. She determined that there was no family connection and related the family history back to this person, asking him to help find family members. The man from Krakow used his amateur radio contacts and located the family of Antoni Korycinski in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1970.

On a trip to Lublin, Poland, in 1991, Uncle Peter and daughter Jane met several members of the Vilnius Korycinski family, including Great Uncle Antoni and his daughter Janina, who traveled there to meet them. Second cousins Jane and Janina began corresponding. Since Jane does not understand Polish and Janina does not understand English, my mother, Sophie, was again the translator.

The letter of July 22, 1992, from Great Uncle Antoni Korycinski was sent to my mother and is recorded in our family history book:

"First, I acknowledge that by the Grace of God, we are alive and well. This is the first letter I write to you. I obtained from

Poland your address from Jaremczyk [the Krakow amateur radio contact].

This is how it happened:

A lady came to our house and asked if Anthony Korycinski lived here. Yes, I replied. Later she said she wanted to speak to Anthony Korycinski, son of Peter. I called my father. She repeated Anthony Korycinski, son of Peter, What was your mother's name? Father said, "Sophie." Then she asked the names of father's brothers. Father replied, "Joseph, Ignacy and Peter." These names checked with the information she had. She said that Mr. Jaremczyk received a letter from Sophie [my mother] asking for assistance in finding members of the Korycinski family.

Dear sister and the whole family, I am very happy that you had not forgotten us. I am writing to you as the son of Anthony Korycinski, because I too am Anthony. Father has asked me to write to you.

Now a few words about the family. Joseph, Ignacy and Peter left for America from Zailg. Anthony, the youngest of four sons, remained in Zailg with his parents. In addition to the sons were two sisters. Sophie married Alexander Kudrewicz. One year later she died in Zailg. Stephanie married Pacirza. He died. She then married Lokowicza, and he died. Your great grandparents, Peter and Sophie are buried in Zailg. My grandmother and yours had the maiden name Pankewicz. I don't know why, after the war, Uncle Joseph sent us several letters. After his death Aunt Helen sent us two photos. That was the end of our correspondence. I sent several letters but received no reply. I am sending you a photograph. I have a photo of my three uncles, Joseph, Ignacy and Peter. Surely you have such a photo. I also have a First Communion photo of Sophie and Peter. I

From East to West and Back Again

Phyllis Zych Budka

lack a photo of Wanda and Alexander. I am sending you a photograph of my family with my father.

And so farewell, we look forward to seeing you. I kiss you all and will be expecting an early reply with impatience. Please tell the rest of the family.”

1950 to 1970 to 1991 - 1992 and another long time until 2010...

During my 2010 visit, the cousins took me to Bopty. We walked through the churchyard cemetery, looking for old tombstones with any mention of great-grandmother's maiden name, Szymanski or Szymanska. We did find a fairly modern tombstone with perhaps the Lithuanianized version of that Polish name, "Samansko." Was this a relative? Unfortunately, to date, we have yet not found any family connections there.

Our next stop was the Church where grandfather Peter was Baptized, in Semelisko. A short drive and we were at Moni, a place with two homes and a small stream. Uncle Antoni pointed to a place across the stream. "The manor house was there. Your great grandparents had serfs. When the manor house was burned, the family moved to Zailgy, nearby. This was before your grandfather Peter was born."

On to the hill surrounding Lake Zailg, where the family built their new home, and where my grandfather was born. "The glue and felt factory was over there. Your grandfather and his brothers worked in the factory," I was told.

Language...I can get along in Polish just enough to make myself understood. Russian Language was my undergraduate college major, a logical choice for a student in the Sputnik Era. Thanks to two years of high school Latin, I can even navigate through old Latin Church documents.

While it is exciting and interesting to learn about one's ancestors, my personal quest is to reconnect family ties with living relatives. I met many warm, delightful, interesting family members and we exchanged e-mail addresses. We now share news of births and deaths, Christmas and Easter greetings, pictures and genealogy charts. I sent a PowerPoint file of pictures from my recent birthday party, labeling my children, grandchildren and local cousins. Cousin Jurate's teenage daughter, Brigita, is now on Facebook. My three children and I have become Facebook "Friends" with Brigita, sharing pictures and connecting the next generation of Korycinski cousins. I'm hoping we will connect on Skype soon.

However, communicating with cousins in Lithuania is an interesting challenge. Despite their Polish ethnic roots, only the older generation speaks Polish. Their daily language is Lithuanian. A few of the younger cousins know some English. When I write an e-mail to a cousin in Lithuania, I first write the message in Microsoft WORD in English, copy and paste it into Google Translate, select "Translate to Polish," then copy and paste the result back into WORD. After looking over the translation for obvious nonsense, and most of the time it looks quite good to my unsophisticated eyes, I then copy the entire WORD file, English and Polish, into e-mail. Hooray for Google Translate!

While my visit to Lithuania has invigorated my interest in family history, I have always had more interest in the present and the future, thus I am drawn to reading TheNews.pl and "The New Eastern Europe" regularly. The following are some of my thoughts:

1 I am keenly aware of the hardships suffered by these people, my relatives

From East to West and Back Again

Phyllis Zych Budka

included, through two world wars and Soviet domination. Had my grandparents not left these lands, my life would have been very different.

2 When I first met the many cousins, I was puzzled by some of their surnames, part Polish, part Lithuanian. I then learned about the order long ago that required all Poles to “Lithuanianize” their names. I learned that this is still an issue today. As an American, I cannot imagine the government requiring me to change my surname. Why can’t people of Polish origin spell their names in the traditional, Polish way?

3 The issue of government support for “Polish schools” in Lithuania is divisive today. When Victoria and Peter came to America, they went to night school and learned English. Their children were bilingual, typical of first generation Americans. In contrast with today’s Poles in Lithuania, the immigrants of 100 years ago chose to leave their birthplaces and most wanted to become Americans. I find it hard to imagine my own ethnicity and language being changed by the change of a border, i.e., by government decree. I feel strongly that there must be a common language that binds a country together, also an issue of debate and discussion in the United States today.

4 During my adult lifetime, English has become the international language. In my opinion, it is important for the young

people of the former Soviet countries to learn some English and travel to other countries. In July 2008, I participated in the UNESCO-Kosciuszko Foundation’s English Language Immersion School for Polish high school students in Krakow. I still have contact with some of the students through Facebook and hosted one of my former students in my home for a week this spring.

In retirement, as I continue my search for Family roots and work to extend and strengthen these new ties, I think about the “Iron Curtain” of my student days that prevented me from study and travel in those lands. The internet is a “magic” communication tool but it, alone, cannot open minds and hearts. Physical travel by any means is expensive. So, I dare to address the Contest Organizers:

What can you and I do together to connect students in your countries with students in the United States to encourage communication that has the potential to open their young worlds and develop mutual understanding?

With the click of my mouse and the speed of light, I send my essay to you. To paraphrase the closing words of Uncle Antoni’s 1970 letter,

And so farewell, I look forward to hearing from you and will be expecting an early reply with impatience.

Serendipity

Carole McCarthy

Wow, we're related! That's how I responded when Bernice Izzo told me that when my Great Aunt Hedwig Giniewska married Christianus Grubala in Szamatuly, Poznan in 1881 Poland, Aunt Hedwig married into Bernice's great grandfather's Grubala family!

Hedwig, also known as Jadwiga, was the sister of my great grandfather, Walenty Gliniecki, whom I wrote about in the 2nd and 3rd editions of the Discovery Project's newsletter. Bernice wrote about her great grandfather and the Grubala family in those same editions. We didn't know, at that time, the connection between the Gliniecki and Grubala families. It started to come together when Phyllis Budka, cofounder of Discovery Project, emailed Bernice and me, that she had just extended her family back one more generation by means of the "the Poznan Project," an on-line database of Poznan marriages in the 1800s. Phyllis then jokingly said, "Perhaps we are all related!" I initially laughed it off but then was inspired to go to my family tree to get a list of surnames from the Poznan area. The list looked like this: [Grubala](#), [Grzelak](#), [Gugala](#), [Gwizdala](#), [Eliasz/Heliasz](#), [Konieczna](#) and [Piwniczak](#). You can imagine my surprise when Bernice, not Phyllis, wrote back to say, "Have we discussed the fact that you have Grubala's in your family because that is my great grandfather's name." She then told me that when my Aunt Hedwig Giniewski married Christinus Grubala, Hedwig was marrying the brother of Bernice's great grandfather! And just as amazing, her great grandparents were married in Ostrorog parish where many Gliniecki relatives, including my 1st, 2nd and 3rd great grandparents were married. See below a picture of this beautiful Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Bernice also told me that Hedwig and Christian Grubala immigrated to the US before her great grandfather. She said that her great grandfather, Franz Grubala, lived with his brother Christian and his wife, Hedwig, on Front St. when he first arrived in Schenectady. This was all a revelation to me. The only Glinieckis I knew that came to the US were my Great Grandparents Walenty (b.1863) and his wife Josephine (Bamber) Gliniecki who came in 1889 and his older brother Szczepan (b.1858) and wife Jadwiga (Wolkowiak) Gliniecki who came in 1885. Now I find out that an older sister, Hedwig (b. 1852), also lived in Schenectady. It will be fun researching Hedwig and Christian in Schenectady with my new 'cousin' Bernice.

Discovering your roots and connecting with others who have similar surnames or came from similar locations in Eastern Europe are just some of the benefits of belonging to "The Project to Discover Eastern European Roots in Schenectady County". Bernice is one of the founders of "The Project to Discover Eastern European Roots in Schenectady County" and is keeping a running list of all the surnames that are published in the newsletter. Maybe you will find a connection also!



Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ostrorog parish, Poland

Filming the Polish History Show

Bernice Izzo

As you know, we have filmed a show about our Polish heritage which airs on SACC TV Channel 16 and the Internet . In the process of preparing for this show, we had several meetings at Phyllis' house. At first, I really felt like the outsider. I had not grown up in the Polish neighborhoods of Mont Pleasant or Eastern Avenue. In fact, I did not grow up in a Polish neighborhood at all. I don't think there was one in Saratoga and, when we moved to Schenectady, we lived in Woodlawn. I did not attend St Adalberts School or the Church. I lived on the other side of town, so I had not gone to Mont Pleasant High School.

But all the other people had and they had a closeness that I do not think exists in the world today. And I am sure it did not exist in my world, even if I went to a Catholic grammar school and spent a few years at a Catholic high school. What makes them so special? Every time a subject was brought up, they each had a story to add. A story that related to one another and their time at St. Adalberts and growing up in Mont Pleasant. And most of all it related to their Polish heritage. Someone mentioned the Polish national anthem and they all started singing it. Seriously, they knew the words and could carry the tune. They tried teaching me the Polish version of happy birthday (Sto Lat). As you will see and hear from the show, I did not learn much but I enjoyed listening to them. It just came so naturally. By the way, I like it better than our Happy Birthday song. It seems more sincere.

Then came the day of the taping and they arrived with their Polish treasures - and we had many as you will see on the show. I love them all but I think paper crafts, the wood carved boxes and the embroidered tea cozy were my favorites. The white and red book which folded out into a Christmas story was wonderful. I had seen Phyllis' Polish paper cut pictures (wycinanki), but this was unique because it was three dimensional. As a child, I loved cutting out paper dolls. The cutting was more fun than playing with them.

As young person or at least younger than now, my major hobby was embroidery. I am pretty sure I have done more than three hundred pictures, but the tea cozy was just wonderful. I would just love to do a piece with a Polish theme.

When it comes to the wood carved boxes, I would just love to do one. Wood carving has always been something I wanted to learn and knowing me, I will do it. I think what I am trying to say is that my craft DNA comes from my Polish genes and I needed these wonderful people to show me that. They taught me a lot about my Polish heritage. They have a closeness that was enjoyable to watch and they tried very hard to include me in it. The experience was great and I am so glad that we got some of it on tape. We need to do more to preserve this heritage, this knowledge.

Filming the Polish History Show Bernice Izzo



L to R: Phyllis Zych Budka, Bernice Izzo, Patricia Biggica, Joyce Addison



Tea cozy



Table of Polish family "treasures."



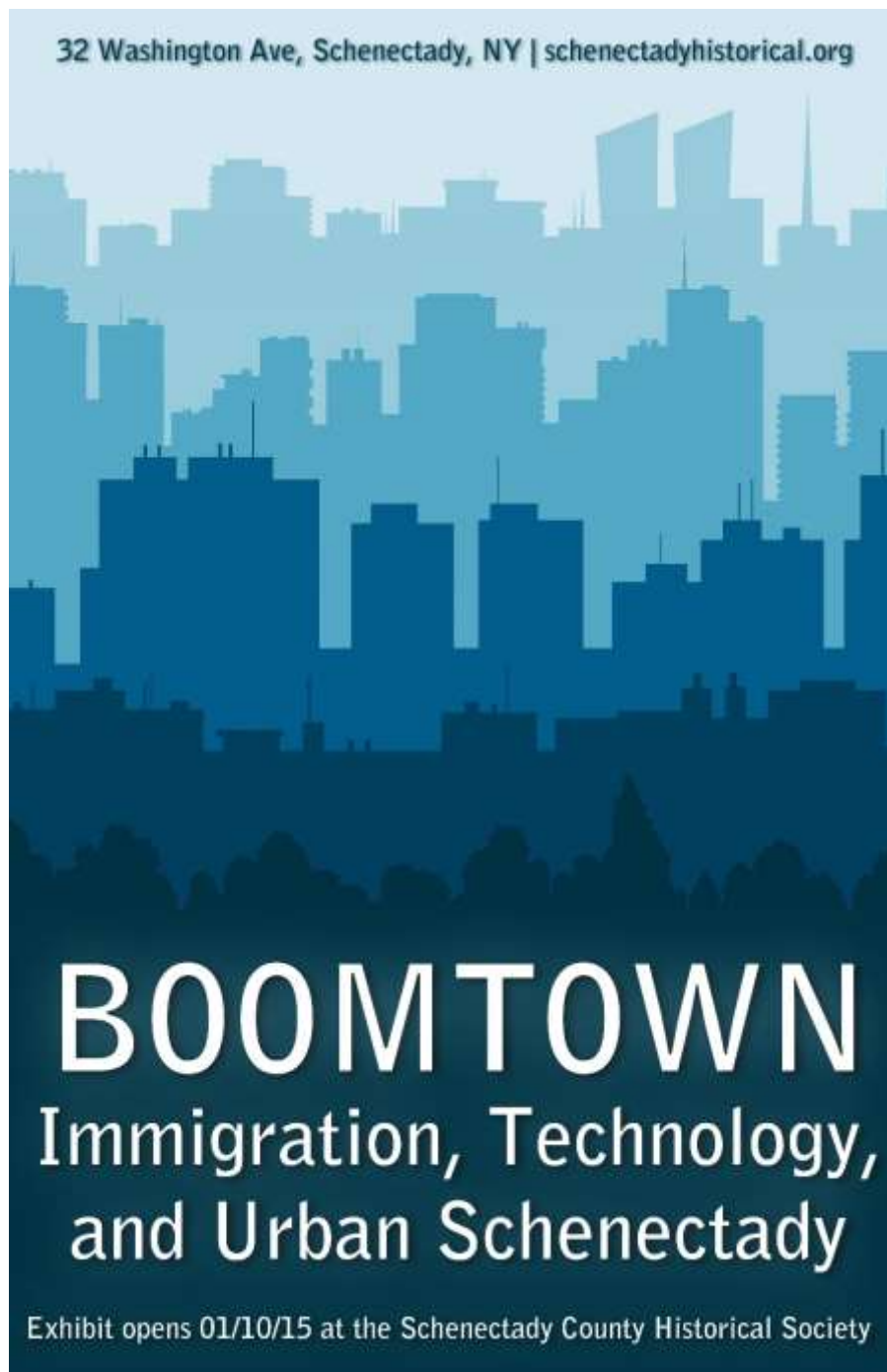
L to R: Veronica Thomson, Helen Ann Saunders, Carolyn Kozubal, Janice Thompson, Producer and Host



Pictures courtesy of Bernice Izzo and Carole McCarthy on the SACC TV

**Schenectady County Historical Society Exhibit Will Feature Schenectady's
Immigrant Heritage – Including OURS!**

Humans are always on the move. We seek new opportunities and face challenges as we adapt to changes in the world around us. For thousands of immigrants, Schenectady County offered its own opportunities and challenges. *Boomtown: Immigration, Technology, and Urban Schenectady* explores why people immigrate, and the unprecedented impact of immigration and technology on urban Schenectady."



Three Project Projects!

Project 1

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

Melissa Tacke, Grems-Doolittle Library, Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305
Phone: 518-374-0263 www.schenectadyhistorical.org

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

Project 2

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

abudka@nycap.rr.com

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

Project 3

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

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

bentley4@satx.rr.com