

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

October 2016    Vol. 3 No. 4

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

Please share your family history, help pass the (electronic) word. The next deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, then April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. To submit your family story, pictures, etc, e-mail Phyllis Zych Budka: [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com) Without your stories, there can be no newsletter. To be added to the newsletter e-mail list, contact Phyllis.

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

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

**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!**

## Table of Contents

Title	Author / Contributor	Page
Naturalization Records Index – A Great Resource		2
Aunt Rose Gieniecki, a Witness to the First Home TV Reception: Schenectady 13 January 1928	Carole McCarthy	3
Celebrate Genealogy Month – Jump In!	Bernice Izzo	5
Part 2: Although The Ages Separate Us, A Passion for Learning Links Us  (DZIELĄ NAS WIEKI ŁĄCZY PASJA POZNANIA)	Krystyna Pawlowska-Bernacka, Torun, Poland  Edited by Cousin Phyllis Zych Budka	6
Byster Family History, Continued	Marty Byster	9
Class of Over 400 Children Confirmed at Polish Church “Gazette” May 2, 1930 Page 24	Courtesy of Brianna Guckemus	15
The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933-1942)	Phyllis Zych Budka	17
Speaking of Self-Publishing	Phyllis Zych Budka	19

### **Naturalization Records Index – A Great Resource**

Schenectady County Historical Society’s *Schenectady County Naturalization Records Index* is a valuable resource for genealogy research. If a name is listed there, the person’s Naturalization Papers can be viewed from the Society’s microfilm library. These records can contain data such as birthplace, spouse’s birthplace, date of US arrival, etc.

**Aunt Rose Giniecki, a Witness to the First Home TV Reception:  
Schenectady 13 January 1928  
Carole McCarthy**

Talking to my cousin one day, he happened to mention that our Aunt Rose Giniecki was famous. He told me that her picture had been in the local paper regarding the first ever TV transmission to a home. My Aunt Rose was the younger sister of my grandmother, Mary Giniecki-Tys. Their father was my great grandfather Walenty (a.k.a. William) Giniecki who immigrated to Schenectady with his wife, Josephine Bamber, in 1889 from Kluczewo, Poland, then part of the German Partition.

In 1928, my Aunt Rose (1897-1978) was 30 years old, single and working for the Alexanderson's as a domestic. Dr. Alexanderson was an inventor and consultant to GE and RCA. She must have been a good friend of the family to have been included in the picture on this momentous occasion. Aunt Rose, in the picture below, is standing behind the seated Dr. Alexanderson. They are all staring at the 3 inch TV screen. A lot different from our 60 inch screens of today! I have also included a portion of the article on this historical event that appeared in the Schenectady Gazette January 14, 1928. This picture was included in the article. This is a copy of the original, which is in the GE archives at the Schenectady Museum.



Schenectady Gazette

“VOL. XXXIV, NO. 91, SCHENECTADY, N. Y., SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 14, 1928.  
PRICE THREE CENTS.

**APPARATUS IN LOCAL HOMES SHOWS VALUE OF TELEVISION**  
Small Sets Can Receive Clear Images, Tests Carried Out Here Prove

TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE AVERAGE MAN  
Receiving Equipment Has Been Simplified to Great Extent at G. E.

**Aunt Rose Gliniecki, a Witness to the First Home TV Reception:  
Schenectady 13 January 1928  
Carole McCarthy**

A person, seated in his home in front of an instrument like the familiar phonograph in size and external appearance looks into an aperture three inches square and plainly sees the images of a man and a woman whose voices he hears but who are miles away from him. Radio television, the latest invention in radio, now being perfected at the local plant of the General Electric Company, makes such an achievement possible.

In an initial demonstration arranged by the General Electric Company and the Radio Corporation of America, groups of engineers, scientists and newspaper men gathered at homes in three different parts of the city yesterday afternoon, and as they stood before the first "home television sets," saw the moving images and heard the voices of persons' transmitted from the research laboratories of the G. E. Company.

So lifelike were the lights and shadows, reproduced from the research studios, that the curl of smoke from a cigarette was transmitted by radio just as a picture unfolds on a screen.

**Demonstrations were Given**

The homes in which television cabinets have been installed include those of E. W. Rice, Jr., Lenox road; E. W. Allen, Front street and E. F. W. Alexanderson, Adams road. It was at those places that the demonstrations were given. The achievement is almost unbelievable. Nevertheless it is an actuality. Several WGY broadcasting favorites participated in the program staged in the research laboratory and their images in the small square of the receiving set were just as plain as though they were only a foot or two distant. The artists played instruments, sang and even made faces for the benefit of those "looking in."

The first home television set of very simple construction, was developed by Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson, consulting engineer of the Radio Corporation of America and the General Electric Company and his assistants in the laboratory.

The transmission of the moving object was made on 37.8 meters wavelength while the voice was simultaneously sent through the air on 379.5 meters, the normal wavelength of WGY. The receiver which Dr. Alexanderson used differs from the ordinary short wave receiver in that it converts the electro-magnetic wave into light instead of sound and the light becomes an image corresponding in movement to the action of the artist at the transmitting end. "

The complete Schenectady Gazette article can be seen at [Fultonhistory.org](http://Fultonhistory.org).

## **Celebrate Genealogy Month – Jump In!** **Bernice Izzo**

I have been doing genealogy for ten years, still discovering things and having fun. For all the people who are hesitant to start, I hope I can encourage them to begin. There is always something new to learn and new people to meet and talk to.

Recently, I received information from a person who reads this newsletter (Let's call her "Cousin"), stating she was related to Carole McCarthy and myself. Carole and I are distant cousins, related through Hedwig Gliniecki, who was married to my great grandfather's brother, Christian Grubala. Cousin is related to us through the same connection. Her great grandmother, Josefina Grubala Iwaszkiewicz, is Hedwig and Christian's daughter who was born in Poland and listed on the ship's manifest when they came to America.

Cousin provided us with names, dates of birth and dates of death plus the name changes for all nine of Josefina's children. She also provided us with Joseifina's second husband's name. This was a big discovery for me. I knew Christian and Hedwig had come to America with three children. But I could never locate them in the United States. The first time I could locate Christian and Hedwig was in the 1930 census. At this point, the children were no longer with them. As Cousin found, the Iwaszkiewiczzes appear in all the censuses, so I was able to follow them until they changed their names.

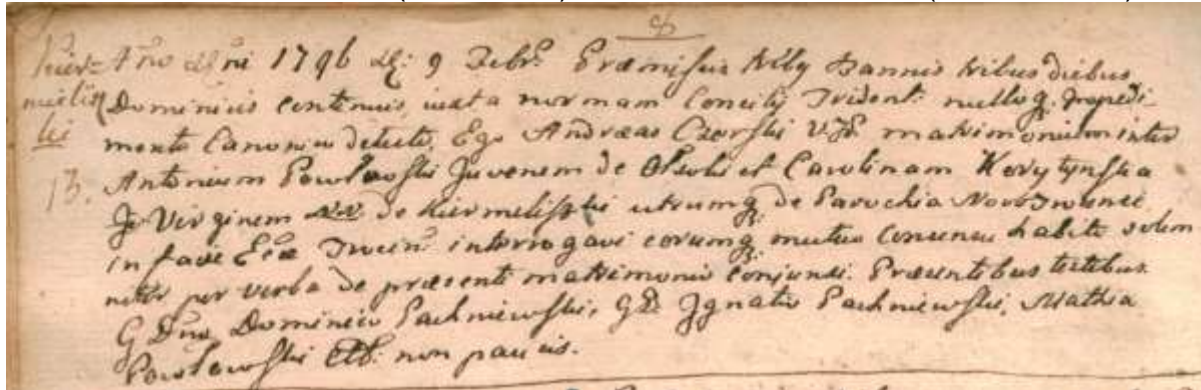
There was another question answered. Cousin stated that her grandfather, Roy Iwaszkiewicz Krouse, was brought up by his Aunt Mary. Mariana was the oldest child listed on the ship's manifest. I had found a record of a Maryanna Grubala who was married in Chicago, but I could never relate her to Christian and Hedwig. With Cousin's information, I will discard that information because she remained in Schenectady. She is listed in both the Obituaries that Cousin sent. But then again, there is some indication that the Josefina (Louise) might have been in Chicago in 1925. My Great Aunt Vera, their cousin, was in Chicago at that point. Yes, these are all the questions which go through your head when you are doing genealogy. There are always questions and it may take years to answer them, but it is so much fun when you find the answer.

In general, genealogy is exciting and it takes a while, but putting together your family history is very satisfying. October is genealogy month, so I am encouraging you to get started. You never know what you will find. Good, bad or indifferent, you can share it with us. We love to hear the stories. It is all part of our history. Feel free to contact me at [niece1220@nycap.rr.com](mailto:niece1220@nycap.rr.com). I will be glad to help.

**Part 2: Although The Ages Separate Us, A Passion for Learning Links Us  
(DZIELĄ NAS WIEKI ŁĄCZY PASJA POZNANIA)  
Krystyna Pawlowska- Bernacka, Torun, Poland  
Edited by Cousin Phyllis Zych Budka**

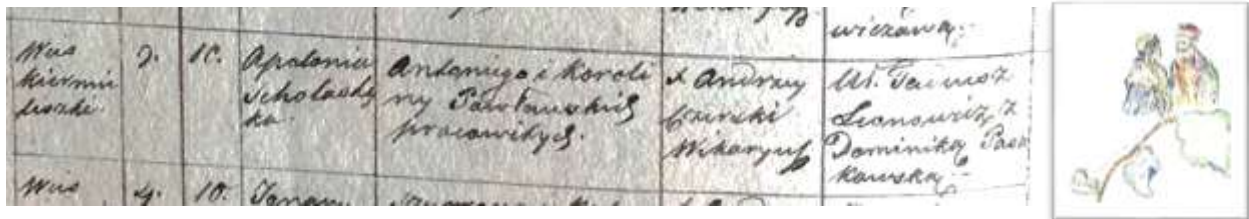
Phyllis's note: See the previous newsletter (July 2016) for information about my connection to Krystyna. Krystyna's generous submission to this newsletter is a perfect example of Bernice Izzo's message above. Krystyna is a talented artist who also provided the thumbnail pictures below.

**KAROLINA KORYCIŃSKA (1775-1833) -ANTONI PAWLOWSKI (1769 - ?1840)**

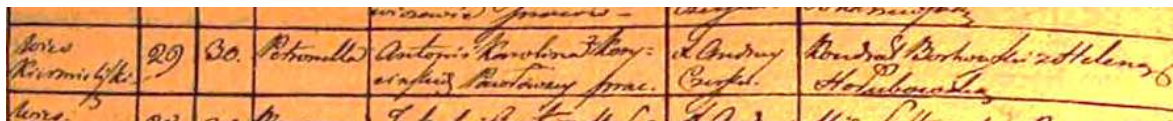


1796 wedding of Karolina KORYCIŃSKA and Antoni PAWLOWSKI – Phyllis adds: Latin text says that Antoni is a young man and Karolina is a virgin; her name is spelled “Korytynski.”

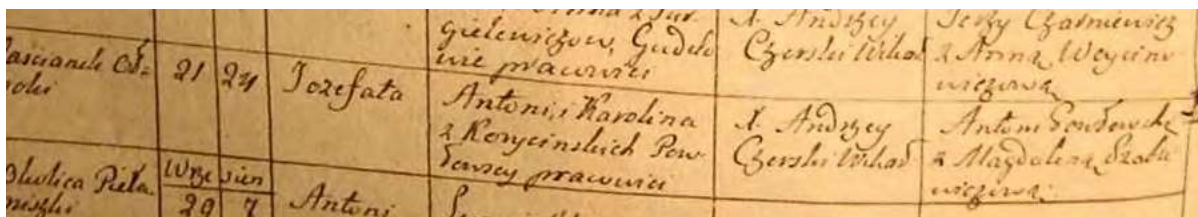
The Polish entry for the birth of each child is given below. The first column is the name of the village (Kiermieliszki) or town (Troki). I'm not sure what the number columns are. These are followed by the parent names: *Antoni and Karolina from the Korycinskis Pawlowski, [they are] workers (pracownicy).* The next column is the priest's name, then the names of the Godparents.



1798 Daughter Apollonia - Phyllis adds: middle name Scholastyka



1801 Daughter Petronella



1802 Daughter Jozefata

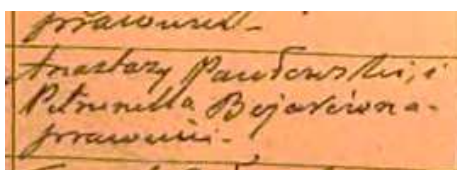
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Miasto Troki	4	6	Barbara	Antoni i Karolina z Karacinskich Por- towscy mawurini	Andrzej Czerski liany	Pan Kajetan Mat- czynski z Scholasty- ka Sieracha
Wies No Troki	5	7	Jan	Stanislaw i Berola	Andrzej Czerski	

1803 Daughter Barbara

Wies No wosidli	3	6	Maiury Anastazy	Antoni i Karolina z Korycinskich Por- towscy mawurini	Andrzej Czerski W.	Andrzej Wierbo- wski z Ewa Du- dziala etc.
Miasto Troki	5	9	Jozefata	Michal i Anna z Ju-	Andrzej	

1805 Maciej Anastasius - Baptism of great great grandfather, son of ANTHONY AND KAROLINA KORYCIŃSKA Pawlowski



1824 Wedding of Anastazy and Petronella

Wies No Lupali	5	19	Stanislaw Jakob	Antoni i Karolina z Korycinskich Por- towscy mawurini	Andrzej Czerski	Magdalena Apulinska z Kazimierz Michal- ski z Jozefata Du- li wozowni
Wies Pactwa	19	22	Terpa	Michal i Anna z U-	Andrzej	

1808 Son Stanislaw Jakób

Wies No Lupali	4	8	Rozalia	Antoni i Karolina z Korycinskich Por- towscy mawurini	Andrzej Czerski	Jan Jurek z Tuchmel wozowni Benedykt Jurek z Maryanna Dur- li wozowni
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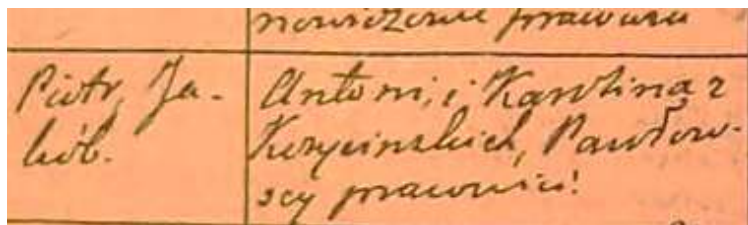


1811 Daughter Rozalia

Wies No wosidli	8	8	Jan Piotr	Antoni i Karolina z Korycinskich Por- towscy mawurini	Andrzej Czerski	Antoni Durliwicz z Maryanna Tolia wiazani
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1814 Son Jan Piotr

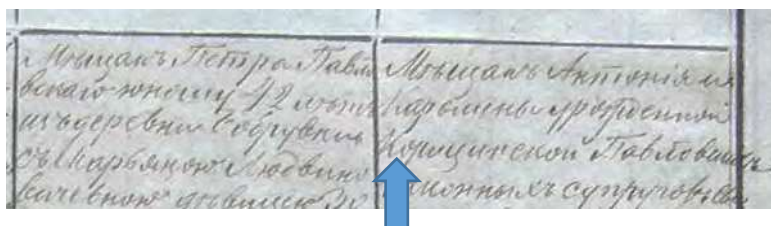
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 Edited by Cousin Phyllis Zych Budka**



1817 Son Piotr Jakób

Wios. Ję- Dawidki-	21. 24.	Jakób-	Antoni, i Karolina z Korycińskich, Pawłowscy prawni.	J. Atanazy Pawłowscy	Karolina Stankiewicz z Agata Sobolewska
Wios. Nowe siódmi wie Korycińska	20. 23.	Wincenty Jakób.	Antoni, i Karolina z Korycińskich, Pawłowscy prawni.	J. Atanazy Pawłowscy	Maria Borowska z Agata Korycińska
Wios. Sant.	15. 16.	Franuska.	Michał, i Agata z Korycińskich prawni.	J. Atanazy Pawłowscy	Maria Borowska z Agata Korycińska

1822 Son Wincenty Jakób



[Phyllis: This entry is in Russian]

[Krystyna:] Last document in my family which has the name Koryciński; 1861 wedding of Piotr and ?



## **Byster Family History, Continued**

### **Marty Byster**

**Tak, Tak, Dobrze Polka**<sup>1</sup>  
(Yes, Yes, Very Good Polka)  
--- Ignacy Podgorski<sup>2</sup> ---

A-me-ry-ka / jest gud kon-try;  
Kaz-dy tu jest / ma-dry.  
Kaz-dy ma / pie-nie-dzy wie-le;  
I ba-wi sie / smie-le<sup>3</sup>.

### **The Mean Teens**

Before World War I, there were two periods with significant Polish immigration to the US. The first followed the November Uprising in Poland and the Polish-Russian War (1830-1831) when Russia, the victor, confiscated Polish manors and 10,000 Poles were displaced in what today is called the "Great Emigration"<sup>4</sup>. The second occurred between the US Civil War (1870) and World War I (1914) when some 2.6 million Poles, mainly peasants from economically neglected rural provinces in Poland, immigrated to the United States "for bread" (za chlebem).

My maternal grandmother, then Panna [Miss] Katarzyna Borek and grandfather Pan [Mister] Feliks Kornacki both arrived in the United States early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and settled in Schenectady, NY where I, their first grandchild, was born some 30 years later. They came to fulfill their destiny, not for bread alone, but escape an impending war, live together with so many others their age in America and raise a family. They came, confident that yes, yes, America is a good country full of opportunities for the future.

Immigration to the US in the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century totaled some 3.2 million immigrants<sup>5</sup>. My grandparents came near the end of what is the largest surge in US immigration before 1980, which raised the percentage of immigrants over the entire US population to the highest (14.7%) it has ever been<sup>6</sup>. Over the decade, the population in the City of Schenectady doubled to 78,826 as did the number of Poles to

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<sup>1</sup> Music [in two] and lyrics by I. Podgorski --- *ALBUM, Wesolych Tancow Polski, No. 17, PIANO SOLO with Words*; Ignacy Podgorski, 2233 Orthodox Street, Philadelphia, PA; 1942

<sup>2</sup> Ignacy Podgorski, February 1, 1886 – November 5, 1957; "...a musician, composer, arranger, publisher, recording artist and violinist who conducted his own orchestra... a jovial outgoing personality with an exceptional talent for producing music".  
<http://www.ipapolkas.com/blog/otw-portfolio/ignacy-podgorski-deceased-category-inducted-1978/>

<sup>3</sup> Translation: "America is a good country; everyone here's a smarty. All have lots of money and they spend it boldly [freely]."  
<https://www.google.com/#q=translate+polish+to+english>

<sup>4</sup> 1989; Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski; Poland a Historical Atlas; Dorset Press; pp.164, 283  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=Iw8oAQAAMAAJ>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1910to1919.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time?width=1000&height=850&iframe=true>

## Byster Family History, Continued Marty Byster

4221 in 1910<sup>7</sup>. There were some 300 residents of River Street in 1910, 180 were Polish or Americans of Polish decent.

Katarzyna, after arriving in Schenectady in 1911, except perhaps for a short stay with her older sister Maryann, lived the rest of her life on River Street. She endured a record breaking Mohawk River flood in March of 1913, just before she married Feliks Kornacki the following June.

My grandfather Feliks always referred to my grandmother as Katie, and inevitably pronounced it “KD”.

Their first household was in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment at 18 River Street which they rented from Charles Ernst. Their first child (later my mother Pauline) was delivered there on March 12 1914. On March 28, 1914, exactly one year to the day after the 1913 flood, together they endured another flood, the highest on record ever, which filled their first floor apartment and all the other houses down the street to the river bank.

Flood waters once again flooded the interior living space of homes on River Street on April 2, 1916 only 6 days before my grandparent’s only son (later my uncle Joe) was born on April 8, 1916. Following the 1916 flood, Feliks and Katie moved down the street, closer to the river, to 22 River Street apparently to a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment to avoid future river floods. Much to their relief, I’m sure; the Mohawk River did not flood again until March 1929.

World War I began on July 28, 1914 and it wasn’t until April 2, 1917 that President Woodrow Wilson asked the Congress to declare a war against Germany to "make the world safe for democracy" in response to which Congress declared war on April 4.

The Selective Service Act authorized the federal government to raise a national army for America’s entry into the war through compulsory enlistment or draft. Feliks, age 30, registered [Fig. 1] on June 5, 1917 for the draft as required by the first of three scheduled registrations. He was probably rated “Class III, temporarily exempted, but available for military service” since he was employed in an “industrial enterprise essential to the war effort;” however, he was not drafted.



Figure 1: WWI Draft Registration Card<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> 1984; *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930*; by Robert R. Pascucci; State University of New York at Albany, Department of History; Chapter 1, Table 1.5 [Note: The 78,826 figure may be for the entire Schenectady County. The figure in Schenectady’s Golden Era 1880-1930 by Larry Hart, p.291 is 72,826. On the other hand, matter could be dismissed here simply as a “typo”.]

<sup>8</sup> WWI Draft Registration Card

## Byster Family History, Continued Marty Byster

After Germany surrendered on November 11, 1918, Ignacy Paderewski [Fig. 2], Prime Minister<sup>9</sup> for the Republic of Poland<sup>10</sup> (January 13, 1919-November 13, 1919) met with President Wilson to assure Wilson's Fourteen Points<sup>11</sup> for peace at the Paris Peace Conference included an independent Polish state, which later was included in the terms of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919.



Figure 2: Ignacy Paderewski Commemorative Plaque, St. Mary's School, Irving Place, Schenectady, NY

As a gesture of solidarity with Poles everywhere who believed that Poland would never die as long as they were alive, Feliks and Katie shared some of their new found wealth with their motherland by purchasing Republic of Poland 20yr, 6%, US Dollar Gold Bonds [Fig. 3]



Figure 3: Republic of Poland 20yr, 6%, 50 US Dollar Gold Bond

<http://interactive.ancestry.com/...Kornacki...Polish...>

<sup>9</sup> Prime Ministers of the Republic of Poland (1918-1939)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Prime\\_Ministers\\_of\\_Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Poland)

<sup>10</sup> History of Poland (1918-1939)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Poland\\_\(1918%E2%80%931939\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Poland_(1918%E2%80%931939))

<sup>11</sup> Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points  
[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/wilson14.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp)

## **Byster Family History, Continued** **Marty Byster**

On the eve of the “Roaring Twenties” the Kornacki household had moved to 22 River Street with three children: Pauline, age 5; Joseph, 3; and Josephine born March 19, 1919, incidentally, all of whose birthdays fall in the spring within 30 days of each other. Katie will undoubtedly stay at home to take care of the children with an additional chore of getting Pauline to and back from school. On the other hand, Feliks a machinist who belonged to a labor union, could walk to work at the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) in less than 10 minutes.

The Golden Age of Railroads will peak and enter an extended period of decline. ALCO however will enter the decade in a World War I locomotive boom<sup>12</sup> building steam locomotives for Russia, the US Army and domestic sales which carried into the middle of the decade.

### **The Roaring Twenties**

The Roaring Twenties is a period of sustained economic prosperity during the 1920s in the United States. It was an era which brought on automobiles, telephones, motion pictures, radio, and electricity and aviation manifested as unprecedented industrial growth, consumer demand, and significant changes in lifestyle and culture<sup>13</sup>.

Feliks and Katie carried forward into the twenties the wealth and prosperity they accumulated in the Clean Teens. By 1920 apparently, they were prosperous and secure enough for Feliks together with Bronislaw Andrukewicz and Michael Matulewicz, all of Schenectady, to receive a charter for a corporation organized with \$3000 in capital to engage in the grocery and meat business under the name Schenectady National Market<sup>14</sup>. Unfortunately, the ultimate disposition of this venture I do not know.

By 1924, Pauline, Joseph and Josephine were all in school.

In 1925, the Kornacki family moved back to 18 River Street, borrowed \$2300, bought the property from Charles Ernst and mortgaged it against the loan [Fig. 4].

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<sup>12</sup>1998; Albert Churella; From Steam to Diesel: Managerial Customs and Organizational Capabilities in the Twentieth-Century American Locomotive Industry; *Princeton Studies in Business and Technology*; p.61  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=wHGfrlQV4doC>

<sup>13</sup> The Roaring Twenties  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roaring\\_Twenties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roaring_Twenties)

<sup>14</sup> 1920; Butchers' Advocate: Dressed Poultry and the Food Merchant, Issues 1-17; Issues 20-24; University of Minnesota; January 5; 1921, p.12  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=QZZCAQAAMAAJ>

## Byster Family History, Continued Marty Byster



Figure 4: Deed Loan and Mortgage for the Purchase of 18 River Street, September 2, 1925

In 1926 their home was wired for electricity, a convenience to human effort [Fig. 5]



Figure 5: Electrical Installation Compliance Certification, 18 River St.

I remember the old stove very well and am so happy to find this picture [Fig 6] which I believe represents in every detail the one I fed with coal from a caddy or pail. I'd haul it up two flights of stairs from the bin in the cellar, filled with chestnut hard coal to help my grandmother, almost every day during the winter months. I shook the grates and dropped ash to the lower ash pan, then opened the shutter to the left, the damper on the smoke pipe to the chimney to the right, lifted two round covers over the fire and spread fresh coal over the fire inside. The smell of coal gas followed immediately and when it all vented up the chimney, I adjusted the shutter and damper for a nice even flame that would last the day or the night.

## Byster Family History, Continued Marty Byster



Figure 6: The Old Coal Stove<sup>15</sup>



Figure 7 With the house wired for electricity, the electric Blackstone washing machine helped Katie with the laundry. My grandfather's dirty work clothes, which he brought home from work, were scrubbed in a tub by hand on a scrub board with Octagon soap. Filling and draining the washing machine to a sink, rinsing the laundry, hanging it out to dry, the starching and ironing was all done by hand. Repairs were made with a pedal operated Singer sewing machine



Flooding from the Mohawk abated; the flood of the Roaring Twenties was upon them.  
(To be continued)

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<sup>15</sup> The Old Cook Stove

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Columbian+Cast+Iron+Stove...full-size-columbian-choice-cast-iron-cookstove...>

## Class of Over 400 Children Confirmed At Polish Church

### Bishop Gibbons Administers Sacrament at St. Adalbert's Before Large Crowd.

The largest class to be confirmed by Rt. Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, bishop of the diocese of Albany, was that confirmed yesterday morning at St. Adalbert's Church in this city when over 400 children were given the sacrament by the head of the diocese. This class is probably the largest that will be met by Bishop Gibbons in his triennial visits to the churches of this section and during yesterday's services he highly complimented the children, their parents and the pastor of the church, Rev. Joseph Ostrowski.

Shortly before 11 o'clock yesterday morning the bishop, accompanied by his secretary and the other priests in attendance, marched in procession from the rectory to the church, which, by that time was filled to overflowing. Seats in the center aisles had been reserved for the 400 or more children and their sponsors, the girls occupying seats on one side of the center aisle and the boys on the other. Their parents, relatives, friends and parishioners made up the rest of the crowd that filled every available bit of space on the main floor, overflowed into the choir loft and then into the outer vestibules. The main altar and the other altars of the church were profusely decorated with white lilies.

Following the usual opening ceremony and prayers the bishop took his place at the foot of the main altar and began to administer the sacrament of confirmation. This took about an hour.

Bishop Gibbons then gave a brief talk to the children, going into detail in explaining the significance of the sacrament of confirmation and what it meant to them. He then extended his congratulations to the parents and commented on the unusually large number of children in the class. He next congratulated Father Ostrowski.

This unusually large class has been preparing for confirmation for

Tracka, Emilia Lis, Genevieve Bursiewicz.

Casimira Ozarowska, Genevieve Zudrozna, Mary Rekucka, Genevieve Nowicka, Boleslava Napiorska, Eleanor Rosiak, Irene Bachleda, Catharine Potocka, Helen Jablonska, Valerye Urban, Florentine Kozlowska, Gertrude Kozlowska, Ester Bartosiewicz, Clara Kania, Genevieve Diugozima, Hedwig Rybaltowska, Helen Roicka, Irene Zmyslowska, Genevieve Kolakowska, Helen Johnson, Genevieve Dwojakowska, Jane Dwojakowska, Genevieve Pokrzywnicka, Helen Glowacka, Genevieve Tyborowska, Regia Kruszevska, Stanislava Nowicka, Joanna Sledziwska, Cecylia Wysocka, Irene Bialkowska, Jane Zmyslowska, Genevieve Bojanowska, Helen Karandyszewska, Mary Chaitak, Czeslawa Chrzanowska, Jennie Chrzanowska, Wanda Jendrzejewska, Walerya Moskal, Dorothy Ordon, Jennie Zalucka, Geneve Piotrowska, Regina Glowacka, Geneve Kos, Leokadya Maciag, Julia Walag, Irene Lisiewska, Barbara Grekowicz, Catherine Grekiewicz, Boleslava Grekiewicz, Wanda Grewkiewicz, Stanislava Kowalska, Wanda Swol, Helena Przybala, Helena Sarnowska, Helena Wlcekowska, Geneve Wlczkowska, Geraldine Kazyzka.

Edward Ratynski, Anthony Huzar, Teodor Kwiatkowski, Stanley Kwiatkowski, John Sobiecki, Benjamin Kozlowski, Edward Dziuba, Walter Kulakowski, Casimir Zablocki, Walter Mackiewicz, Stanley Holodej, Stanley Morka, Henry Zywicki, Casimir Lewandowski, Richard Lewandowski, Alexander Szatkowski, Edward Rutkowski, Joseph Gaultie, Alexander Sanlewski, Edward Chmielewski, Stanislaus Szumigala, Edward Szumigala, Mieczyslaus Andryszczk, Edward Ruszczyk, Leocadia Dziuba, Eugene Fitzner, Florentine Tyminska, Bertha Madej, Sophia Madej, Irene Adamczak, Emilia Borowska, Stephania Czyzewska, Florentine Rutkowska, Genevieve Pinkowska, Helen Pieczka, Genevieve Jozwiak, Hedwig Szczodrowska, Irene Szczodrowska, Ceslava Konopka, Stephania Szumlis, Leocadia Flis, Irene Trzaskowska, Stanislava Dziuba, Mary Zazula, Bronislava Grzywaczewska, Irene Prusak, Zenona Tyborowska, Leocadia Sawicka, Ceslava Malachowska, Emilia Karandyszewska, Henrietta Skotarczak, Regina Kwiatkowska, Helen Majewska, Stephania Moskal, Ceslava Przystup, Frances Kizskiel, Irene Rogowicz.

Sophia Rogalska, Sophia Kwiatkowska, Stella Dudzlec, Stanislava Zablocka, Helen Bryniarska, So-

graduated Father Ostrowski.  
This unusually large class has been preparing for confirmation for several weeks under the direction of Father Ostrowski, who organized and supervised the instruction of the children. Bishop Gibbons then imparted his blessing on the congregation and this was followed by benediction of the blessed sacrament.

In addition to Bishop Gibbons and his secretary, Rev. Norbert Kelly, the other priests in the sanctuary during the ceremonies were Father Ostrowski, Rev. Victor Szutowicz, assistant pastor at St. Adelberts; Rev. S. S. Jakobowski of Amsterdam; Rev. John Zadzora of Johnstown; Rev. E. A. Ercolani of Amsterdam; Rev. M. A. Bianco, pastor of St. Anthony's, this city; Rev. Lawrence Cerny, pastor of Sts. Cyril-Methodius Church, this city; and Rev. Constantine Strimait's, pastor of the Holy Cross Church, this city.

The members of the confirmation class were: John Kwiatkowski, Julian Chrzanowski, Adam Grewkowiec, Raymond Turski, Chester Turski, Peter Ausfeld, Victor Szumachowski, Edwin Szumachowski, Casimir Orminski, Eugene Piotrowski, Francis Mozejko, Teodor Grzelecki, Edward Slowek, Joseph Flis, Joseph Krawiecki, John Krajewski, Edward Sroczyński, Stanley Ruzicki, John Swiergiel, Stanislaw Skalski, Edwin Pogruszewski, Stanislaus Rej, John Rej, John Walkowski, Wincent Chentnicki, John Lojewski, Francis Matuszak, Richard Zmijewski, Chester Kapuscinski, Heronim Gorecki, Heronim Szczepanski, Edward Leja, Wacław Mrozek, Heronim Malecki, Alexander Dzierwa, Francis Dzierwa, Peter Laniewski, Casimir Gardocki, Casimir Serowik, Stanley Laniewski, Edward Laniewski, Francis Stepanowski, Edward Piotrowski, Sydney Jegier, Adolf Jegier, Francis Przybylo, Henry Sarnacki, John Ratynski, Edmund Pieczka, Jozef Wnuk, Ladislaus Fialkowski, Czesław Moskal.

Teodor Marchewka, Stanley Kulesza, John Zalucki, Vincent Cwierko, Walter Rucinski, Francis Kania, Walter Krug, John Roicki, Adam Pomidajewicz, Joseph Kubiak, Casimir Nejman, Francis Szychulski, Teodor Cieslak, Stephen Gorczyński, Mieczyslaus Rejko, Eugene Bukowski, Stephen Talaga, Edwin Belezus, Ladislaus Bandosik, Casimir Ozarowski, Chester Olszewski, Stanley Bachleda, John Kiszkiel, Casimir Kozlowski, John Kaminski, Stephen Dytrych, Joseph Lopotnia, Boleslaus Galka, Edward Przechodny, Martin Karandyszewski, Chester Przewlocki, Edward Majewski, Joseph Majewski, Henry Bednarowski, Adam Cieszyński, John Chociej, Edward Grabicki, Adam Grabicki, Ignatius Kalinowski, Raymond Godlewski, Raymond Penichter, Edward Szymanowski, Walter Chojnicki, Karol Krajewski, Bernard Bozymowski, Edward Bozymowski, Francis Niedzwiecki, Bernard Burszewicz, John Wroblewski, Henry Dudziec, Stanley Rutkowski, Stanley Rutkowski.

kowska, Stella Dudziec, Stanislaw Zablocka, Helen Bryniarska, Sophia Zywoť, Mary Zywoť, Helen Celebudzka, Clara Kulesinska, Lucille Szymanska, Zenobia Stalpinska, Anna Zazula, Mildred Zazula, Regina Baldyga, Clara Marchewka, Clara Tomkowska, Mary Ziebrowska, Jane Ziebrowska, Jane Jablonska, Eleonor Zasada, Felicia Trzcinska, Alicya Ilnicka, Ceslava Tyralska, Clara Dorosinska, Irene Josefowicz, Henrietta Josefowicz, Genevieve Wwapinska, Mary Bobowska, Sophia Bobowska, Florentine Raczkowska, Rozalla Bobowska, Natalia Kursa, Valeria Kursa, Alfreda Dombkowska, Eleonoe Bukowska, Sophia Strenka, Rose Potocka, Helen Lemanska, Jane Strysk Apolonia Pinkowska, Heler Obrembska, Casimira Kobylarczyk, Stanislaw Burzynska, Anna Burzynska, Hedwig Szymanska, Pauline Szymanska, Genevieve Wronkowska, Helen Wronkowska, Josephine Wronska, Salomea Baranowska, Ladislawa Stomska, Jane Morawska, Jane Precikowska, Josephine Kwiatkowska, Irene Zielinska, Irene Ruzszyk, Anna Ormonska, Anna Lochanska, Apolonia Raczkowska, Julia Malachowska, Rose Ausfeld, and Genevieve Gronkowska.

## Representative Says Official Has Right to Vote Dry, Drink Wet

BINGHAMTON, May 1 (AP).—Representative John D. Clarke of the 34th congressional district, in speech Wednesday night in Endcott defended the right of a public official to vote dry and drink wet and declared the private life of a public official "nobody's damn business but his own".

Clarke's stand on the wet and dry question was taken at the annual banquet of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, after Munroe Curtis of New York, department commander, said abruptly during speech on "Patriotism":

"I understand, that Congressman Clarke drinks wet and votes dry. I drink dry and vote wet."

When Clarke's turn to speak came he reopened the question as follows:

"The private life of a public official, in my opinion, is nobody's damn business but his own. This is America."

"I have fought the 18th amendment, but my district under the state referendum voted dry. The previous speaker apparently did not understand that this is representative government and it is my duty to reflect the majority sentiment in my district, when it is known."

## Idle War-Time Ships To Return to Action

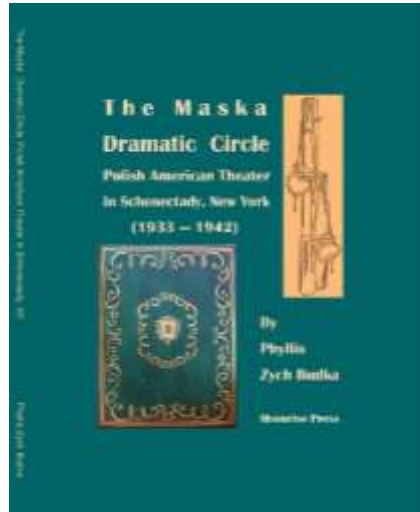
Hats off to the Gazette typesetter! Phyllis



**The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York  
(1933-1942)**

**Phyllis Zych Budka**

My very first book has just been published! A description from the Moonrise Press Blogspot is found below. Hard copy and e-book format can be ordered from [lulu.com](http://lulu.com). The book will be available on Amazon.com after mid-November.



<https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=phyllis+zych+budka&type=>

(Copy and paste into the URL)

From the Moonrise Press Blogspot:

<http://moonrisepress.blogspot.com/2016/05/the-mask-a-dramatic-circle-by-phyllis.html>

The Maska Dramatic Circle by Phyllis Zych Budka Documents Polonian Culture

ISBN 978-0-9963981-4-5 (paperback), \$30, x plus 254 pages

ISBN 978-0-9963981-5-2 (eBook – PDF format), \$10 download

Moonrise Press announces a new publication in the series dedicated to Polish and Polish American culture:

The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish American Theater in Schenectady, New York (1933-1943) by Phyllis Zych Budka appeared in May 2016 in a large format (8 1/2 by 11 in), to accommodate its many facsimile of hitherto unknown historical documents. Instead of an E-Pub format, the e-book is issued as a PDF, due to the large number of scans and examples.

Designed initially as a family history and based on documents found in an attic, the book was inspired by the involvement of the author's parents Stanley Zych and Sophie Korycinski Zych in the Maska Dramatic Circle in the 1930s and 1940s. While researching this project, Ms. Budka realized that:

"no one has told the story of the Maska Dramatic Circle, this unique group of young people, mostly first generation Polish Americans, who contributed so much to the cultural life of their community in Schenectady, New York, between 1933 and 1942. The Maska members were multitalented, hardworking and full of fun. Their world was completely

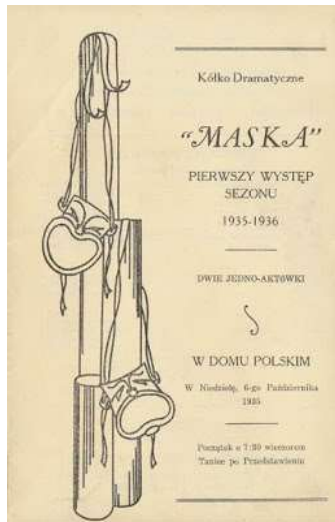
**The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York  
(1933-1942)**

**Phyllis Zych Budka**

bilingual, with plays in Polish, a newsletter in both English and Polish, and newspaper articles in both the local English newspapers as well as the Polish ones."

In ten years they staged at least 51 plays, complete with costumes, stage settings, music and dancing. The book documents these performances on the basis of a scrapbook of photos, Maska Buletyns and press clippings and thus fills in an enormous gap in the history of one of the Polish immigrant communities in America.

Ms. Budka explains further: "While I've approached the Maska book as a family memoir and a local history, I am coming to realize that it is very relevant to current concerns in the wider community about the disappearance of the Polish American immigrant experience. I am also very proud of the writing and pictures in our "Project To Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots" newsletter. Pascucci's PhD thesis on the Italian and Polish immigrants in Schenectady in 1880 – 1920 (1989), is the only project that comes close to an in-depth analysis of the local population, filled with statistical data, but lacking the personal touch".



**ABOUT THIS BOOK**

If we are to have a more complete and nuanced history of Polonia we need more local based sources like the one published by Phyllis Zych Budka. Her focus is the Polish American community in Schenectady, N.Y., a midsized industrial city where she grew up and which does not receive much attention from Polonian historians. Based primarily on her parents' scrap book and Polish and English newspapers, it records the amazing theatrical and cultural achievements of the "Maska Dramatic Club of Schenectady," which from 1933 to 1942 produced more than 50 plays in Polish and, in the process, enriched the lives of Polish immigrants and their children.

~ Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Professor Emeritus of East European History and Past President of PIASA and Polish American Historical Association (PAHA)

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Phyllis Zych Budka has provided an account of the young, third-generation Polish-Americans of Schenectady, N.Y. who organized a drama group (Maska) that offered

**The Maska Dramatic Circle: Polish-American Theater in Schenectady, New York  
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both Polish and Polish-American themed plays in the Polish language. Maska began offering plays to the community in the early 1930s and had a successful run for a decade. At a time when they were fast assimilating into the larger American society, these young people sought to preserve Polish culture and to demonstrate its relevance to the contemporary lives of both the immigrant generation and to their children.

~ Robert R. Pascucci, Ph.D., author of *Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, N.Y., 1880-1930*

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I will be forever grateful to Phyllis for telling the story of my dad's life before I was born. As a kid, I knew my dad was well-read with a great vocabulary. He read books to me, stepping into character roles, inflecting his voice or changing his accent to portray Tom Sawyer, Ivanhoe, or other characters in the stories. I never knew how he learned these skills, he was just my dad. I also remember him telling about hard times during the Great Depression riding the rails in search of work. I wondered about the story behind the photographs of actors on stage of which he was a part. Now, thanks to Phyllis, I know more about his quote about "the happy days" of his participation in the troupe, the fun he had and the awards he won.

~ Joseph Drapala

**Speaking of Self-Publishing**

**Phyllis Zych Budka**

Publication of the "Maska" book was made possible with the help of Dr. Maja Trochimczyk of Moonrise Press. Although we have never met in person, I cannot say enough about Maja's invaluable editorial role in the process of preserving this story. Along the way, Maja introduced me to Lulu.com and its self-publishing functions. If you have questions about doing the same, send me an e-mail:

abudka@nycap.rr.com

I am grateful to Seena and Joe Drapala (See Joe's comments above) for the 2 Maska stage pictures in my book. Seena, also a Schenectady native, has also just published a family book using Lulu.com. I am privileged to have a copy of the beautiful "Poems and Life of Karen Valborg Sofie Rasmussen," by Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala. The book is available on

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=seena+rasmussen+drapala&type=>

As Bernice said, "Jump In!"