

The Austro-Hungarian Army

Jan entered the joint army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which was known as the “Imperial and Royal Army”. It was commonly referred to as the “K.u.K.” (“kaiser und koenig”). Galicia entered the empire as its most populous region and was a good source of conscripts.

The K.u.K. units were generally more poorly trained than Austrian and Hungarian homeland armies, and had limited access to new equipment because the homeland armies were better funded. Regiments were often comprised of one ethnicity, but served outside their home district. The K.u.K. did not have any major military campaigns during Jan’s period of service (c.1903-1906). The army was typically used for keeping the empire’s ethnic groups under control in urban areas, and for maintaining plans for major wars against neighboring powers, especially Italy, Serbia and Russia. The direct cause of World War I took place within the empire itself. The southern city of Sarajevo was the site of the 1914 of assassination by a Serbian national of the next in line to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Army volunteers could be as young as seventeen, but the typical draftee was twenty years old. Draftees were not allowed to marry during their training period. All candidates had to pass a physical exam. Upon failing the physical, a candidate could be re-tested for the next two years to confirm his lack of fitness. Jewish men were subject to the draft as well. The Hassidic Jews of Korczyn sought especially to avoid conscription. Their cultural separation with its strict dietary laws along with their passivism and desire to marry early were strong motivations to stay out of the military.

Jan’s initial training period lasted three years. After completing this active duty phase, soldiers were put on furlough to their homes and served the remainder of their ten-year commitment in the active reserves. However, even inactive reserves could still be called up in time of war.

The K.u.K. was divided into fifteen Army Corps for the purposes of troop recruitment and administration. Galicia was home to three of those Corps: 1st Corps in Krakau, 10th Corps in Przemysl, and 11th Corps in Lemberg (modern day Krakow & Przemysl, Poland and Lviv, Ukraine.) The 10th Corps was sub-divided into many regiments, including the one at Sanok.



The Infantry was by far the largest branch of service and therefore needed the most new recruits. The other service branches included Engineering, Artillery, and Cavalry. While most training would be for one to three years, it took seven or eight years in the cavalry to develop sufficient horsemanship skills.

Austrian Barracks in Sanok, Built c.1876

The landed gentry, like Korczynna's Count Stanisław Szeptycki could get appointments to the officer training school in Vienna, Austria. Many became career officers who later fought in the Great War as the Polish Legion and after the war became the officer corps of the re-constituted nation of Poland. Poland had no lack of former Austrian general officers.

Jan was apparently recruited from the Krosno District into the 45th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Sanok and belonging to the 10th Corps in Przemysl. Figure 4 is a *Map of the Military Districts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire*, dated 1894 with a detail of Galicia. It is written in the German language which was the official language of the military of the time. This map records the roughly 102 infantry regiments of the joint army.

Each regiment had 4 field battalions each of 4 companies and a replacement staff. (By 1914 each battalion would also have had a machine-gun detachment with two machine guns.) In addition to their regiment number, regiments were known by the name of the current regimental colonel known as the "Inhaber" or some historical personality in perpetuity. A

regimental history on the 45th Regiment written in 1897 and found in German on *Google Books* has the title, “Geschichte des K.u.K. Infanterie-Regimentes Prinz Friedrich August, Herzog von Sachsen, Nr. 45.”

At the start of the 20th century, Austria-Hungary conscripted 0.29% of its population which was less than many others. The number of active-duty troops in the army was about 300,000, and the total could be expanded to a little more than 800,000. The ethnic make-up of the enlisted ranks reflected the diversity of the empire itself. The K.u.K. was 27% German-Austrian, 22% Hungarian, 14% Czech, 9% Polish and lesser amounts of Ukrainians, Croats and Serbs, Romanians, Slovaks, Slovenes and Italians.

The K.u.K. stored their local military records within their subject provinces, like Galicia. Upon the re-formation of Poland after WWI the records became the property of the Polish government which has either lost them or not made them public. These records would have provided more detail as to the movements of the 45th Regiment and of Jan’s training and other possible awards.

Qualification badges included both woolen lanyards and metal cockades, worn outside a greatcoat. The 1906 portrait of Jan in this uniform shows him wearing a marksmanship lanyard. Both lanyards and cockades belonged to the army and together with rifles and other equipment were returned to the authorities when a man left active duty.



Metal Marksmanship Cockade

Ellis Island Documents

The Ellis Island Foundation maintains passenger records of 12 million immigrants who entered America through the Port of New York. This data base includes microfilm copies of ships' manifests from 1892 to 1954. It takes patience going through these files, now all on the internet, as there were numerous typographical errors made along the way.

Their records contain the manifest of S.S. *Scharnhorst* sailing from Bremen on March 6, 1909. A complete reading of the manifest for any particular passenger runs two pages. Thus the full entry is shown on the next two pages and is roughly transcribed here:

Line 14 Name: Urbanek, Jan, Age 26

*General Information: Male, Married, Occupation: Miner, Does not Read or Write**

Last Previous Residence: Galizy (Galicia), Korczynna

Nationality: Polish

Relatives: Wife: Monika Urbanek, Sporne, Korczynna

Final Destination and Has Ticket: Newmarket, NH and Yes

Amount of Money: \$14

In U.S. Before: No

Going to Friend or Relative: Sister-in-law, Ludwika Pelczarska,

Address: Canada Str., Newmarket, NH

Condition of Health: Good, 5'-9" Tall, Fair Complexion, Brown Hair, Brown Eyes

Place of Birth: Korczynna

The S.S. *Scharnhorst* sailed with 1,483 passengers and arrived in New York City on March 17, 1909. Jan was the only passenger that listed Korczynna as his home town although there were many of Polish decent sailing with him.

Jan listed his occupation as "Miner", a term used for oil well drillers in his time. Later, in the 1920 U.S. Census he listed his occupation as "Weaver".

* Stanley noted his father could read and write well.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S. S. *Scharnhorst* sailing from *Bremen* *March 6, 1909*

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

No. on List	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Yrs. Mar.	Married or Single	*Calling or Occupation	Able to Read, Write	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or People	Last Permanent Residence	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in case of alien cases	Final Destination
	Family Name	Given Name											
1	Selawczyk	Stanislaw	57	M		farmer	no	Polish	Polish	Polish	Poland	Poland	Poland
2	Schryber	Stephan	18	M		farmer	no	Polish	Polish	Polish	Poland	Poland	Poland
3	Bartmann	Anna	32	F		no	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
4	Mincawa	Maximir	42	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
5	Radleck	Marjynik	26	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
6	Ingled	Kaspar	32	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
7	Ruwinck	Frank	31	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
8	Balawender	Steph	37	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
9	Trusban	Frank	20	M		no	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
10	Kurmer	Paulina	16	F		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	Dockar	Lacondy	48	M		no	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
12	Reisner	Paul	28	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
13		Frank	20	M		farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
14	Urbanek	Jan	26	M		minor	no	"	"	"	"	"	"
15	Streck					farmer	no	"	"	"	"	"	"

Line 39

THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States. 96

Arriving at Port of *New York* *March 14* 1909 *2:30*

No. on List	Whether ever before in the United States and if so, when and where?	By whom sent (name of vessel, name of agent, name of office, name of street, name of city, name of State, name of country)	Whether having a ticket for such land destination?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Whether in America	Condition of Health: Mental and Physical	Deformed or Crippled, Nature, length of time, and cause.	Height: Feet, inches	Complexion	Color of Hair	Color of Eyes	Marks of Identification	Country	Place of Birth	City or Town
1	yes	Edw. no		Whether in law: <i>Baltimore, Maryland</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
2	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>4 11</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
3	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 5</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
4	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 7</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
5	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 6</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
6	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 11</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
7	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
8	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
9	yes	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 7</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
10	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
11	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
12	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 6</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
13	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
14	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 11</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
15	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>4 9</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
16	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>
17	"	"		<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>		<i>in good</i>		<i>5 8</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>brn</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>	<i>Stuttgart</i>

The Ellis Island passenger records also contain the manifest of S.S. *Zeeland* sailing from Antwerp on March 6, 1909. The full manifest entries show two women traveling together:

Line 26 Name: Urbanek, Monika, Age 16-1/2
General Information: Female, Married, Wife, Reads and Writes
Last Previous Residence: Austria, Korczynna
Nationality: Polish
Relatives: Father: Wojciech Pelczarski, Korczynna
Final Destination and Has Ticket: Newmarket, NH and Yes
Amount of Money: \$11
In U.S. Before: No
Going to Join a Friend or Relative: Husband: Jan Urbanek, Newmarket, NH
Condition of Health: Good, 5'-3" Tall, Fair Complexion, Black Hair, Brown Eyes
Place of Birth: Austria, Korczynna

Line 27 Name: Ras, Marya, Age 29
General Information: Female, Married, Servant, Reads and Writes
Last Previous Residence: Austria, Korczynna
Nationality: Polish
Relatives: Father: Wojciech Pelczarski, Korczynna
Final Destination and Has Ticket: Newmarket, NH and Yes
Amount of Money: \$12
In U.S. Before: Yes, 1900/8
Going to Join a Friend or Relative: Sister: Ludwika Pelczarska, Newmarket, NH
Condition of Health: Good, 5'-2" Tall, Fair Complexion, Black Hair, Brown Eyes
Place of Birth: Austria, Korczynna

Line 27 for Marya Ras also identifies her as a "Non Immigrant Alien". It notes her as having been last in America from 1900-1908. Marya Ras evidently made the crossing at least three times: in 1896, as documented in the 1910 U.S. Census (and probably a ship's manifest as a "Maryanna" Pelczarska, a single 17 year-old woman) ; in 1900, as documented on line 27, above; and in 1909, on this S.S. *Zeeland* manifest. Marya Ras's daughter, Julia Ras is

listed in another Ellis Island manifest as having returned from Poland to the U.S. in 1913 at the age of 15-1/2. Her date and place of birth in that manifest is given as September 15th 1897 in Newmarket. Newmarket's vital statistics for that date list a female birth to a "Joseph L. Ross" and a "Mary Pachask" (Pelczarska?). "Ross" was apparently the name taken on by the "Ras" family, for in the same town's vital statistics of her marriage to Andrew Pelczar, Julia Ras is listed as "Julia Ross" with the same last name as given for her father, Joseph.

This back and forth between Poland and America seems to be quite common among the Pelczarski's. The 1909 manifest of Jan Pelczarski (which notes Wojciech Pelczarski of Korczyna as his father) lists him as having been in the U.S. before, in 1906-08, and his destination to that of his brother, Franciszek Pelczarski in Chicago. Most surprisingly, the 1909 manifest also shows that Jan Pelczarski made the trip to America just a week earlier than his sister, Monika! Jan Pelczarski left from a port in Germany while his sister, Monika left from Belgium. Ludwika Pelczarska is known as having returned to Poland and there eventually marrying a man with the last name of Marszałek.

There were many Pelczarski's traveling from Korczyna, Austria-Galicia to America around the turn of the century. An effort has been made in this research to confirm the identity of the traveler by his appropriate age, and by confirming the relatives cited both for the departure and final destination of the trip. Some "Pelczarski" may or not be related, but which ones were Monika's brothers and sisters? The surest proof of identity was the citing of "Wojciech Pelczarski" for the departure, or a known family relative at the final destination. The exception is Marya Pelczarska's 1896 manifest which did not require a listing of relatives at either end of her trip. Her arrival in Newmarket is confirmed by the U.S Census.

Joseph was apparently the first of the Pelczarski siblings to come to America. He first settled perhaps somewhere along the New England coast. According to his Naturalization

records of 1907, Joseph entered via New York City in 1892. (A fire destroyed most pre-June 1897 Ellis Island Immigration Station records.) I could find no entry records for Ludwika, and Franciszek Pelczarski, or Marya Pelczarska Ras's second of three trips in the Ellis Island database. Francis Pelczarski's Naturalization record of 1917 indicates he arrived in New York from Korczyna, Austria in 1901.



*Rosalia Smerczynski -
Who Would Have Preferred to
Marry a Trumpet Player named
Walter.*

Wojciech's oldest son, Joseph Pelczarski went to Salem, MA, and in 1896 married Rosalia Smerczynski. She later changed her and four of their children's names to "Hogan" allegedly because of discrimination by the Irish. The former "Rosalia Smerczynski Pelczarski" took the name "Rose Hogan". (Her German heritage grandson was shocked later to learn only after his mother died that his grandmother, Rose Hogan was Polish.) Joseph kept his name, but their youngest did *Americanize* his to Edwin Pell. (See *The Strange Story of Albert Smerczyski* for more about Rose Hogan's father.)

In summary, all but one of Wojciech's children, who survived to the age of fourteen, are known to have come to America; three returned to Poland:

<u>Name of Traveler</u>	<u>Crossing Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Died</u>
Joseph Pelczarski	1892, 1934	New York	Chicopee
Marya Pelczarska Ras	1896, 1900, 1909	New York	Newmarket?
Franciszek Piotr Pelczarski	1901?	Chicago?	Providence
Ludwika Pelczarska	1906	Newmarket?	Poland
Jan Michal Pelczarski	1906, 1909	Chicago?	Chicago
Monika Pelczarska Urbanek	1909	Newmarket	Poland
Stanley Pelczarski	1912, 1930's	Philadelphia	Poland

Getting back to Monika and her sister, Marya, there were 1,320 passengers sailing on the S.S. *Zeeland* which arrived in New York City on May 4, 1909. Besides Monika and Marya, there were 8 other passengers from their home town of Korczyna on the ship. The others final destinations were listed as:

Anna Polchlopeck, 23	Chicopee, MA
Karolina Polchlopeck, 25	Chicopee, MA
Josef Polchlopeck, 31	Port Richmond, Philadelphia, PA
Josef Korona, 1-1/2	New Bedford, MA
Katarzyna Korona, 26	New Bedford, MA
Stanislaw Korona, 7	New Bedford, MA
Franciszek Gazda, 38	Thompsonville, CT
Antoni Czynadel, 36	Chicopee, MA

It is coincidental that Chicopee, MA is where my father now lives and where Joseph Pelczarski, her uncle died. It, like Newmarket, is a former mill town on a river. The other noteworthy destination is that of Port Richmond, which is immediately adjacent to my Mom's childhood home of Bridesburg, in Philadelphia, PA.

The full manifest from Monika's and Marya's transport to America is reproduced on the following two pages.

Jan's Transport to America



S.S. *Scharnhorst*

Monika's Transport



S.S. *Zeeland*

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered to the collector of customs at the port of arrival of the vessel.

S. S. *Zealand* sailing from *Antwerp* April 24th 1909

No. of List	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to Read and Write	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or People	Last Permanent Residence		The name and complete address of nearest relatives or friend in country whence alien came.	Final Destination	
	Family Name	Given Name								Country	City or Town		State	City or Town
1	<i>Manojkiewicz</i>	<i>Ignace</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
2	<i>Wolinski</i>	<i>Wladimir</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
3	<i>Rowicka</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
4	<i>Polanska</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
5	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
6	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
7	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
8	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
9	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
10	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
11	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
12	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
13	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
14	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
15	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
16	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
17	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
18	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
19	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
20	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
21	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
22	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
23	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
24	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
25	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
26	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
27	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>
28	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>Antwerp</i>

List 12

THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Arriving at Port of New York May 4 09 190

46

No. on list	By whom was passage paid?	Whether ever before in the United States and if so, when?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, name and complete address.	Whether a Protestant	Whether an American	Condition of health, mental and physical.	Deformed or crippled, scars, length of time, and cause.	Height, Feet, Inches.	Color of hair.	Color of eyes.	Marks of identification.	Place of Birth.	
												Country.	City or Town.
1	Self	Yes	father to Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 9	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
2	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
3	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 8	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
4	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
5	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	4 10	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
6	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 3	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
7	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
8	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
9	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	4 11	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
10	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	8 11	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
11	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 5	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
12	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
13	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 5	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
14	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
15	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 10	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
16	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	4 9	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
17	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 3	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
18	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 8	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
19	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
20	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
21	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
22	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
23	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
24	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
25	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 -	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
26	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 3	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
27	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	5 2	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna
28	Self	Yes	Charles Schmidt	No	No	Good	No	4 10	Bl	Bl		Austria	Vienna

The General

When Monika said, “Work three days for the General, and three days for yourself” the general she was referring to was General Stanisław Maria Szeptycki. Count Szeptycki was born in Galicia, Austria-Hungary into the leading feudal family of Korczyna. He was the grandson of Polish playwright Aleksander Fredro whose wife had inherited the estate that included Zamek Komieniec, just north of Korczyna. (See map of area, *Figure 2.*) (Szeptycki’s brother, Andrej was later to become an Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.)



Stanisław Szeptycki
1867-1950

Stanisław Szeptycki joined the Imperial and Royal Army (K.u.K.). As landed gentry he went to officer’s school in Vienna, Austria, studied artillery, and became a Major General in the K.u.K.. Unlike to Jan, the officer rank was open to Szeptycki as a member of the landed gentry. Galician troops of the k.u.k. fought in World War I as the “Polish Legion”. During the war, Szeptycki became a brigade commander and later in the war he was named the commander of the entire Polish Legion formation.

In 1918 when Poland was re-formed as a nation, Marshal Josef Piłsudski became Poland’s first Chief of State. Piłsudski formed a new Polish Army which incorporated the Polish Legion with General Szeptycki . The Versailles Treaty had created a Polish nation but did not set its eastern border with the Soviet Union. The Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921 was fought to settle that border. Piłsudski ordered the Polish Army, without much resistance, deep into Ukraine. Lenin and the Soviet Union retaliated by pushing the Poles back to within 90 km of Warsaw. General Szeptycki commanded the Polish Northeast Front and the 4th Army at the

time, but was replaced by Piłsudski, who drove the Soviets back again into Ukraine. The location of the Polish-Soviet border was finally set near the old eastern border, the one that existed before Poland's first partition. (See map, *The Partitions of Poland, Figure 1.*) In 1926 General Szeptycki retired from the Polish Army.



Szeptycki could be said to own the small town of Korczyna. He owned most of its land, and rented it out for farming. He sold the trees from its forests and the fish that he stocked in the lake he dredged. Under Austrian administration the Jewish community of Korczyna was self-governing. Even though Szeptycki couldn't vote, he could delay and interfere administratively. So every faction had cause to bribe the General to keep him out of the town's affairs.

My father remembers seeing the General in Korczyna's church and noticing that the priest always seemed to be bowing to the big man, who had donated much of the money for the church's stained glass windows. Later on in 1934-36 the General sold off much of the land that he had been renting out. Dad heard the rumor that war was coming soon and that the General was leaving for another country. Later from 1945-1950 Stanisław Szeptycki headed the Polish Red Cross. The General is buried in Korczyna, Poland.

The Strange Story of Albert Smerczynski

Nothing I have come across in researching these stories is as curious as the life of Joseph Pelczarski's father-in-law, Albert Smerczynski (1844-1908). Albert, born in Korczyn was one of eleven brothers whose family had estates on the Russian-Poland border. These were all taken by the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, and are deep within the Ukraine. (See map, *The Partitions of Poland, Figure 1.*)

Albert fought with others, probably in the *1863 Polish Insurrection* supported by Poles in Galicia against the Russian occupation. Albert was captured, sent to Siberia, chained to a wheelbarrow in a salt mine, where he was to work until dead. He received ill treatment, as did all. A rich friend had money smuggled in; a guard was bribed; the two men escaped. They were shot at; Albert received a bullet wound to his forehead. Albert walked for two years, across Asia, to India; worked at loading on ship docks to earn money. Eventually he returned to his home in Poland where his mother did not recognize him when he arrived at her door.

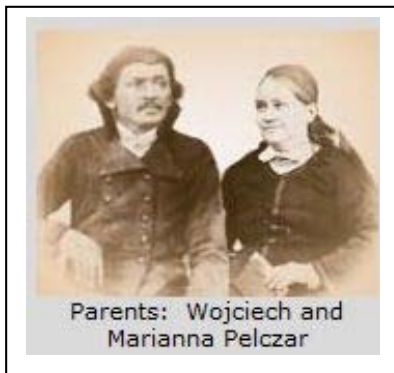
Albert Smerczynski married and arrived in Boston (c. 1885) with his pregnant wife, Victoria (Schmidt) and daughters, Rosalia and Catherine (Kate), five years old. They settled in Salem, MA and had six more children. He owned real estate; worked for a short time as a railroad conductor; spent most of his time commiserating with other Siberian escapees about their hardships. When his first wife died, Albert married again and had more children. These children and their descendants presently live in the Boston, MA area.

After WWI, Russian-Poland was returned to Poland. After WWII, Stalin again annexed eastern Poland along the same *Molotov Ribbentrop Line* that he and Hitler had drawn earlier.

This story has been passed to me by Edwin Pell II. He received it from his father, Edwin Pell I, who learned it from his parents, Joseph Pelczarski and Rosalia Smerczynski (Rose Hogan) Pelczarski, who learned it from the source, her father, Albert Smerczynski.

Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar

Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar was born in Korczyna, Poland in 1842 of very religious parents. As my father says, "They take religion very seriously in Poland". When Joseph Sebastian was growing up, the parish in Korczyna was still a large wooden church with seven altars. Each altar was associated with a different religious society such as the Confraternity of the Guardian Angels, the Confraternity of the Rosary and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Joseph Sebastian's parents, Wojciech Pelczar (1880-1877) and Marianna Miesowicz (1816-1889) married in the parish church in Korczyna, where they would later have their four children baptized: Rosalia, John, Joseph and Katarzyna. The large Pelczar farm covered 120 acres and would one day be split up to provide farms for sons John and Joseph. Or the younger son, Joseph Sebastian would need a new profession.

John and Joseph attended school in Korczyna (the same school later attended by my Dad and his brothers) where they received their first Confession and Holy Communion. Upon the advice of a teacher and a parish priest, Joseph Sebastian's parents took their eight-year old son to Rzeszow where he was accepted into the third grade of the more academically rigorous public school.

Joseph Sebastian's sister, Katarzyna would eventually marry a Franciszek Urbanek. The names *Pelczar*, *Miesowicz* and of course *Urbanek* are all in our family tree, though a common ancestry to Saint Joseph Sebastian has not yet been found.

Joseph Pelczar flourished in his studies, and was especially interested in Polish history. After high school he entered Przemysl Seminary and was ordained a priest by special

dispensation at the young age of 22. He furthered his studies at the Collegium Romanum, and in Krakow, where he eventually became a professor of History and Canon Law and then rector at the Jagiellonian University.



*Saint Joseph Sebastian
Pelczar of Korczyn*

Feast Day – January 19

His first book, *The Spiritual Life* proved to be very popular. He went on to found the *Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus* and the *Sodality of Our Lady Queen of the Polish Crown* in Krakow to engage in social works.

During the founder's lifetime the *Sister Servants* order spread throughout Poland and France, and into Italy, the United States, Libya, Bolivia and Ukraine. He served as the bishop of the Diocese of Przemysl for the last 25 years of his life; he died in 1924. He built 100 churches, eleven new parishes, and many other religious centers. He guided his diocese through the terrible Great War, and his country through its spiritual reconstruction.



*Pelczar Roadside Shrine
in Sporne*

Despite unfavorable political conditions he held three diocesan synods. He also worked to implement the social doctrine of the Catholic Church, by establishing nurseries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and schools. This combination of scholarship, spirituality, social action, and love of Poland must have resonated with Karol Józef Wojtyła. After being credited with miraculous intercessions, Joseph Sebastian Pelczar was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1991, during his 4th pilgrimage through Poland. His relics now lie in *Matka Bozey Krolowej Polski* Church in Korczynna.

Children of Israel

Any story of Poland should include the tragic fate of its Jewish population. The title of this section comes from a term used in present-day Polish accounts. "Children of Israel" recognizes the injustices done to Polish Jews during the Second World War.

Traditionally Poles have always been tied to the land. Feudal Polish gentry, like the Szeptycki family owned the majority of land, while the Polish peasantry continuously sub-divided what small parcels were left over into smaller and smaller plots for their sons. In the Middle Ages, Poland had no mercantile class and Jews were brought in to fulfill this necessary economic role. In addition, the Catholic Church forbade the lending of money for interest, so Poland's Jews provided this essential service. And unlike the gentry, the Jews actually would pay taxes owed to the king.

Before the Partition of Poland it is estimated that four-fifths of the world's Jews lived within its borders. After the Partition, ill-treated Russian Jews often migrated west into Austrian Galicia. These refugees were poor people who overwhelmed Jewish charitable organizations.

Jews and Poles lived in different worlds, culturally and socially apart. Jews owned by far most of the buildings in the town of Korczyna (*Korczyn*) north of Krosno (*Kros*). The buildings were mostly one or two stories tall. They were whitewashed and had a shop just off the street while the family lived in the back portion or above the shop. Jewish trades included: tailoring, glazing, metal working, sewing of linens, butchering, wagon fixing, goods hauling, food sales, pharmacy and many more. There were two Jewish restaurants in Korczyna.

The Jewish community had a synagogue, a study center and a prayer house in one complex. During WWI, the entrance to the complex and the roof of the synagogue had burned down. Only the walls of the synagogue remained standing. The *beth hamidrash*, the school or hall for the study of the Bible or Talmud was the center of Jewish life in Korczyna. Many women

maintained the family while their husbands studied religion. Jews wore traditional Hassidic dress and spoke their own language, Yiddish; only some spoke Polish. Matchmakers arranged all marriages. A Jewish boy and girl talking to one another was unheard of. Young people knew each other since birth, so parents tried to marry them with prospects from out of town.

In 1882, the Poles of the Korczyna area, Wojciech Pelczarski among them, attempted to undermine the wealthy Jewish linen merchants by establishing a cooperative fund to provide Poles with credit lines. The Jewish monopoly of trade was beginning to be challenged. After WWI, the Polish government encouraged more Poles to open businesses. But Polish-owned shops discouraged price negotiation, handling of the merchandise, talking politely to customers and selling on credit. All are practices Jews had learned over centuries. As a result many Polish stores failed and their owners joined the ranks of the educated unemployed.

Poland's constitution had made accommodations for its ethnic minorities. However with the economic depression in the 1930's and Head of State, Piłsudski's death in 1935 this all changed. Anti-Semitism began to take on a quasi-official character. Government approved boycotts of Jewish merchants began to develop. Almost every other European nation was practicing anti-Semitism or else was already flooded by Jewish refugees. There was nowhere for Poland's Jews to go. And then on September 1, 1939 Germany launched its surprise attack on Poland. By secret agreement, Russia invaded three weeks later.

- 1939, On September 9 a German reconnaissance patrol comes through Korczyna; on September 15 the German Army arrives. Jews are terrorized.
- 1939, Jews in Korczyna are ordered to wear a white armband with a blue Star of David on the right arm. Their shops are also to be identified with the Jewish star.
- 1940, in January a *Judenrat* (Jewish Council) made up of local Jews is created to govern the Jewish community according to Nazi wishes.

- 1940, Korczyna becomes home to several German army units. Soldiers plunder Jewish homes and Korczyna's Jews are humiliated by them.
- May 1940 - May 1941, No German troops in Korczyna, a short respite ensues until the German army moves east for its surprise invasion of Russia.
- 1941, Nazis order the Jews of Korczyna to surrender their stores.
- 1942, Jews are forbidden to leave Korczyna. Jews from neighboring villages are sent to a ghetto now formed in the town. They are housed and fed in the *beth hamidrash*. The combined Jewish population reaches almost 1,600 people.
- 1942, August 12 the Gestapo gathers all Jews in Korczyna to the market place for a final selection: The old, sick and infirm are taken to a nearby site and shot; women and children are sent by truck to Krosno; men are forced to run there.
- After two days, the Korczyner Jews are taken from Krosno by train to the death camp at Belzec. Liquidation occurs in make-shift gas chambers connected to the exhausts of captured Russian tanks.

By the end of the war, only thirty-three of the estimated 786 Jews of Korczyna are believed to have survived, sixteen of them in concentration camps or labor camps. Today all that is left of this once thriving Jewish community is their old cemetery.



Hassidic Jews of Korczyna



Jewish Cemetery in Korczyna

Polish Partisan

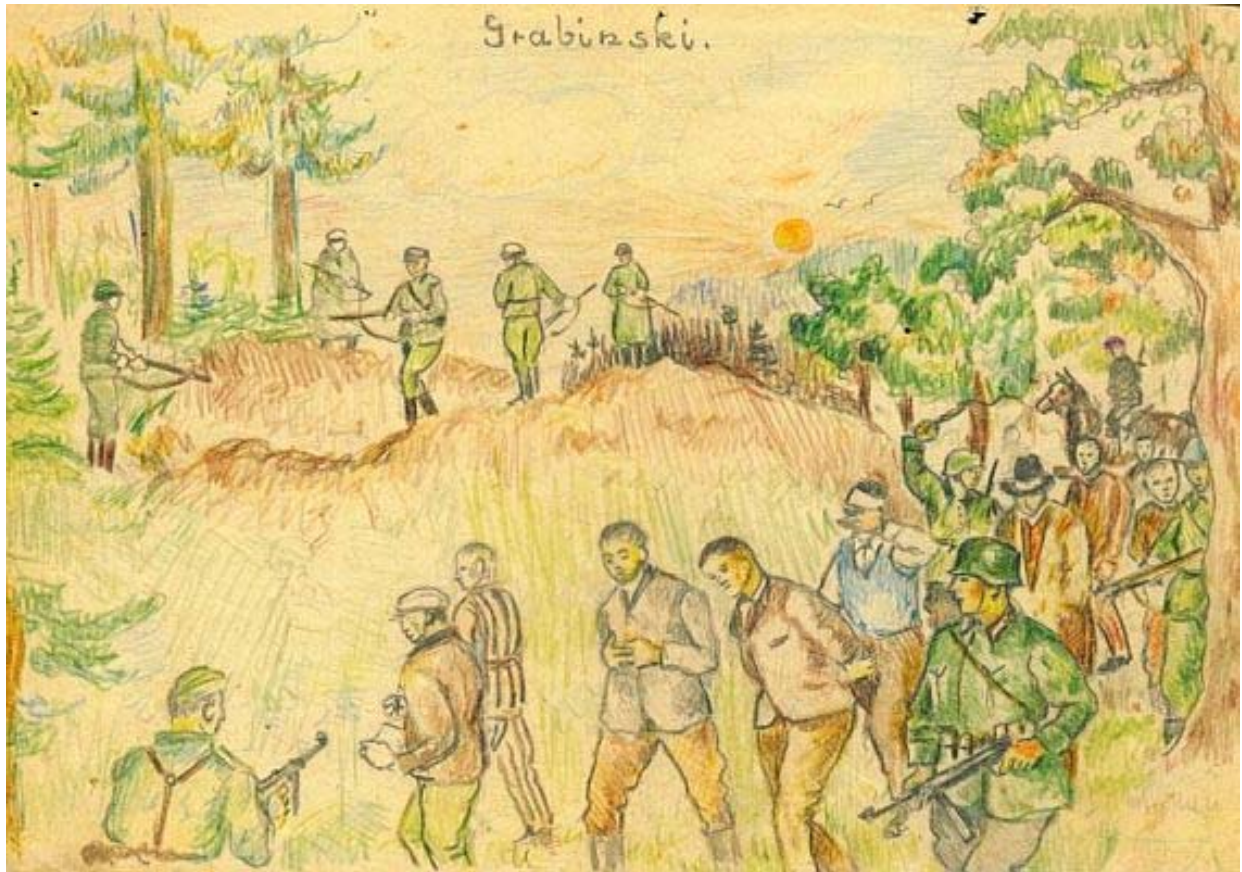


Eugnius Pelczarski
1922-1944

The oldest son of Michał Pelczarski (Monika's youngest brother) died as a Polish partisan during WWII. He is believed to have been a member of *Bataliony Chłopskie (BCh, Polish "Peasants' Battalions")*. The *BCh* was formed as a defense of the Polish people against German economic exploitation, expulsions, and terror. Polish partisans are credited as having saved the lives of many, Poles and Jews alike.

By July 1944 it became clear that Nazi Germany was on the defensive. In the west, the Allies had opened up a second front by landing successfully in Normandy, France. In the east, the Soviet Union had repulsed the Germans at the Battle of Stalingrad and now the German Army was in retreat. A year earlier the German-Ukrainian battalion *SS Galicia* had been formed to fight on the eastern front. It was made up largely of Ukrainians who fought not so much for Hitler as against Stalin. *SS Galicia* had suffered many casualties defending against the Soviet advance. And now they were operating in Polish West Galicia.

At 4 a.m. on July 24, 1944, Eugnius Pelczarski was among 72 captured Poles who were shackled in pairs at Jasło prison and loaded onto trucks. All were Polish Partisans who had been caught in anti-Nazi activities. They were driven east through Krosno and then south towards the spa village of Iwonicz. They arrived at the former *Zaluskich* palace, now Baron Engelstein's headquarters of the *SS Galicia* battalion in Iwonicz. The trucks were unloaded and the men were led, still shackled at the wrists, into the Gabinski forest. Foot soldiers kept guard while mounted soldiers circled against a possible partisan interference. The prisoners were taken to a large crater, where at dawn soldiers of the *SS Galicia* shot each of the Poles in the back of the head. Their mass grave was filled in.



Drawing of the Execution by 15-Year Old Adolf Jakubowicz of Iwonicz

Immediately after the war, permission was sought and received by the nearby director of the Iwonicz Spa, Dr. Joseph Aleksiewicz to exhume the bodies for proper burial. The bodies were exhumed amid the cries of some relatives who identified the bodies of their loved ones. Not all bodies could be positively identified, but a careful record was made of what each had been wearing and other identifying features and personal effects.

On May 9, 1945, funeral ceremonies were held at the Grabinski forest murder site. Thirty-eight coffins were taken to the cemetery in Lubatowa; twenty went to the cemetery in Iwonicz; and the rest were taken to various family cemeteries, including two coffins, those of Eugeniusz Pelczarski, 22 and Richard Olejarski, 18 to the nearby town of Korczyna.

Exhumation Documents from Las Grabinski

No. 59 Identified as Eugeniusz Pelczarski

N. 59
Wszystki rzeczy znalezione
Marianie: Marynarka ciemna
Bielizna marynarska z krawatem brązowym
Spodnie ciemne, potłoczone, potłoczone
spod gnurowy, Koszula biała,
Kalesony białe
Wzrost 189 głowa ciemna
włosy ciemne.
Znaleziono: Cienki wianuszek
medaliki - Matki Boskiej i papłarisa

Pelczarski Eugeniusz
syn Michała i Marii
Korczyzna No. 414

Landwirtschaftliche Zentralstelle
Kriegsallotie Krosno
Boonem 3
Famul No. 59

No. 59

List of clothing found on the corpse.

Height 189 (cm) (6'-2" +)

Found with: Black Rosary & Mother of God Scapular

Pelczarski Eugeniusz

Son of Michal and Maria

Korczyzna No. 414



Memorial at Execution Site

Two other Pelczarski cousins were sent to Nazi concentration camps. Tadeusz Pelczarski, 32 and son of John Michael, was born in Chicago. He was brought to Dachau on 1 Aug 42 by means of Norwegian train 01. Polish prisoner, number 32802 was liberated from Kottern at war's end by the U.S. Army. Kottern was a subcamp of Dachau with about 750 prisoners working for the Messerschmidt airplane factory.

The other cousin, Edwin Pelczarski, son of Uncle Stanley is mentioned in *Afterwards* and also survived the war after being confined at Auschwitz.

Afterwards



Wojciech Pelczarski is believed to have starved in the war.

In the photo Monika is second from the left. Her five Polish-born children and her father are with her. They are standing in front of the log house Jan built in 1920. World War II took a toll on everyone. The war was especially hard on the elderly. The family took to sleeping under the barn out back. One day they heard an artillery shell land on their property. Luckily it never went off. Another time, they disposed of the body of a dead German soldier found on the farm. On still another occasion, after German soldiers confiscated her cow, she appealed to their commander for its return. She said that she had four young children to feed and that his soldiers had taken her only cow. The commander had the cow returned.

- Monika Pelczarska Urbanek Was finally heard of in 1955 as having survived the war with all her children when a friend of our family came from Poland with the news. Uncle Frank was the first to visit from America. She came to America in 1962 spending substantial time with each of her four American-born children. Joseph and Stanley with their wives were able to visit her many times in Poland in the 1970's and 80's. In 1989 she lived to witness a free, independent Poland. She passed her final days in the home of her daughter, Jania and died at the age of 96.
- Wojciech Pelczarski Left Korczyna during World War II and moved in with Monika and her children seeking the relative quiet obscurity of the village of Sporne. There he died in 1941 at the age of 91.
- Edwin Pelczarski Oldest son of Stanley Pelczarski ("Uncle Stanley") was a chemist in Nazi-occupied Poland. The Nazi's imprisoned anyone educated, especially in the sciences. He was sent to a concentration camp in Auschwitz. He escaped it appears when the Nazis abandoned the camp. He and a companion were found eating raw potatoes in a field.
- Antonina Urbanek Marcinkowska Is one of the two surviving Polish-born children of Monika and Jan. She still lives in Krosno at the age of 90. Dad still telephones Tosia and youngest sister, Jania in Poland.
- Janina Urbanek Wielgosz At 82 is the youngest child of Monika and Jan. She lives in the southern town of Gorlice, Poland, between Krosno and Krakow. She lives near her daughter, Ewa and family.

Antoni Urbanek

Was still alive in 2002 when my daughter, Monica and I visited Poland and met him, and his sisters, Tosha and Jania. Their brother, Joe had bought the Ras's homestead in Krosno for \$2,000 for him after WW II. Antoni built his house next to the old house. It is lived in now by his two sons, Paweł and Wojciech Urbanek. His wife Danuta is 88 years old.

Joseph and Helen Flis Urbanek

Owned his carpentry business on Arch Street near the Betsy Ross house in Philadelphia until the 1970's. They raised two daughters, Mary (Canon) and Monica (Zapiec). We drove every Christmas to celebrate with family in Bridesburg. In the summer, they would visit us in Springfield where we would feed the ducks in Forest Park. They moved to their new home, built by Uncle Joe in northeast Philadelphia in 1959. Uncle Joe was noted for tomato plants he began in his greenhouse and grew out back. Aunt Helen died in 2003. Uncle Joe died during the writing of this history at the age of 99. The priest at his funeral noted that Joseph was consistently well dressed at weekly Mass.

Frank Urbanek

Worked in the carpentry shop with his brother, Joe for the rest of his life. When I went to school in Philadelphia he gave me his extra metal-tube bed which I painted orange. I saw him on occasion when he and I would have Sunday dinner at Uncle Joe's and Aunt Helen's home. He died in 1976.

Mary Urbanek Prajzner

With husband, Casimer continued in their Bridesburg home where they raised Helene (Molczan), Stanley, Eugene and Casey. Mary was reticent about her growing up in Poland. She never went back to visit, saying she had said a long time ago her goodbyes. Uncle Caz died in 1982 and Aunt Mary in 1994. They are buried in Resurrection Cemetery foot-to-foot with her brother, Frank who had accompanied her from Poland.

Stanley and Wanda Urbanek

Jointly ran the store, Van Horn Market until they retired in 1979. Mom was always noted for her kindness. My kindergarten teacher told me I was very lucky to have her as my mother. Our cousins remember the candy she gave them from our store during their vacations. Wanda Flis died in 1999 and is also buried in Resurrection Cemetery under an "Urbanek" tombstone which had been pre-inscribed with the names, Stanley, Joseph and Helen. Dad now lives in Chicopee, MA where he still attends Sunday Mass, in a jacket, white shirt and tie, at a Polish speaking parish run by the Franciscans. He is very proud of being a veteran. Now at age 97, he hopes to reach "*Sto Lat*" or one hundred years, the Polish equivalent of "Happy Birthday".

Alexandra "Alice" Flis

Died in Philadelphia in 1954 in the arms of her youngest daughter, Melanie. I have little memory of my lively *Babci* Flis except for holding my Mom's hand as we dropped a flower into her grave at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

Thomas Flis

Worked in a shipyard during WWII. He helped Dad to build the masonry retaining wall around the family store. *Dziadzi* Flis took me home on the train after my visit to Philadelphia in 1959. Always the good worker, he white-washed our basement while on that visit. He died in his home in Bridesburg in 1960. He lays in rest in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery (Section M, Lot 151, Range 7, Grave 3).

Melanie Flis McGeehan Sharpe

Raised five children: John, Kevin, and Christopher McGeehan, Mary (Lawler) and Melanie (Edenholm). For many years she lived with her husband, Sonny Sharpe in Cape May, NJ. Aunt Mel resides in an assisted living complex in Jenkintown, PA and is as lively as her mother, Alice. I called her for remembrances of her parents.

Felix Flis

After the Navy, he wed Helene Kanarska Flis and together raised ten children: William, Robert, Richard, Dorothy (Scanlon), Mary (Duffield), Barbara (Lawler), Joan, Thomas, Michael, and Stephen. Uncle Felix responded to my grammar school letter asking about his job for "career day". When Aunt Helene called Uncle Felix at work with the news of her tenth pregnancy he retorted, "Who's this?" He died in Philadelphia in 2009 and is buried less than 100' up the hill from the "Urbanek" graves in Resurrection Cemetery.

Epilogue

The Other Side of Our Lady of Hope Parish

*Written for the Video Commemorating the Closing of OLH School,
by Walter Urbanek, 2008*

We were from the other side in more ways than one. Our family came from that other Catholic country. Our parents had that other way of working, neither left home for a job. And our house was on the other side of Van Horn Park.



Dad with his first customer, Mr. Long

My Mom and Dad owned Van Horn Market. All of my classmates knew the other Van Horns, the Spa and the Park. But I think few knew the corner grocery store exactly 7/10 of a

mile up Armory Street. Few of them lived close enough to buy their groceries or their penny candy at what was commonly known as “Stanley’s”.

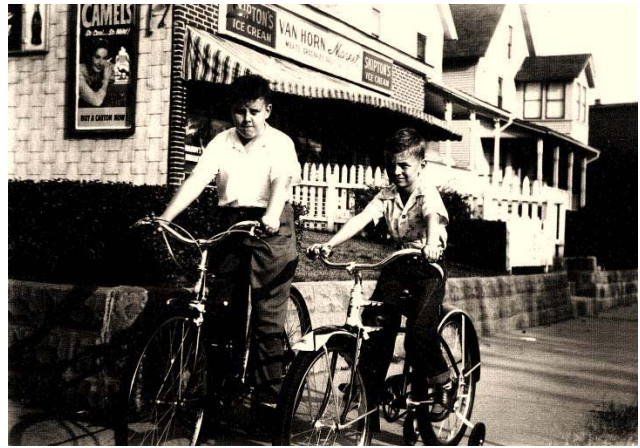
My parents came to Springfield, Massachusetts from Poland by way of Philadelphia. My Dad was born in America but his parents went back to Poland in 1920. As a young man during the late thirties he returned to America, and was quickly drafted. My Mom’s family had been here longer. She had hardly ever left St. John Cantius parish in Bridesburg a wholly (pun intended) Polish enclave of Philadelphia. As newlyweds after World War II they looked for a place to make a fresh start, a place my father could own a business, a place they could raise a family away from the big city.

Dad visited relatives in the Chicopee-Springfield area and liked what he saw. He learned that the owner of Van Horn Market was ready to sell, so he bought. That was 1946 and the beginning of the baby boom. The next year I was their first born. Their first parish of course was Holy Rosary, the Polish parish you may or may not have heard of. It was on the fringe of Hungary Hill, literally at the bottom of the hill. It was near a street whose name I no longer remember, but whose notoriety was the annual soap box derby. I do remember that Holy Rosary was very dark inside despite the votive candles, and it reverberated with many strange sounds.

In addition to praying in Polish, we spoke that language at home. I should say I spoke it until I started playing with my neighborhood friends, none of them knew that *chapka* meant hat. The neighborhood was full of kids, they were from Greece and Ireland, but most of all they were undifferentiated Americans. I wanted to be like them, so I stopped with the Polish. I walked with my buddies to kindergarten at Glenwood School. Glenwood too was on the other side of Van Horn Park. The park had many sides, certainly more than four. Glenwood was on one of those different sides. For first grade though, I left public school for Catholic school.



Van Horn Market with Dad in Doorway



Unknown Friend with Me in Training Wheels

We had one car and my Mom didn't drive. Besides, both parents were needed in the store. So it was a given that I would walk to school. Holy Rosary was too far away. My parents had little choice but the Irish parish. At that time all the popes were Italian, and anyway what did it matter, we were all equal in God's eyes. Changing parishes had some real benefits for me. Everyone spoke English here and the church was much brighter and friendlier.

My childhood memories revolve around our store and Our Lady of Hope parish. We lived in a house joined to the store. The bell rang in our dining room every time a customer came in or out. I knew all the neighbors. And I knew all the delivery men. They delivered *Skipton's* ice cream, *Driekorn's* bread and those life-size card board Santas holding cookies and a Coke on Christmas eve.

After school and on weekends I stocked the shelves, swept the floor and broke up cardboard boxes. On weekends I delivered groceries in my wagon. I seldom watched cartoons on Saturday mornings. In the fall we burnt leaves in the street gutter. Winter was the hardest season. We lived on a corner lot and when it snowed the sidewalk had to be cleared immediately for the customers.

My friends and I walked to school every morning, walked home every lunch time, walked back to school in time for the prayer to St. Roche and returned to the store after school. In eight years it never occurred to me to ask for a ride to school. Walking was what we did. We walked in the rain and in the snow. The walk always began simply enough. We started at Sterling Street, crossed Bevier Street and then Beauchamp Street. Van Horn Park first casually showed itself across the street. But soon the neighborhood ended and the park was everywhere.

You always had the option of walking down those long rows of elm trees with white fences lining both sides of Armory Street. But after a few grades you became interested in “short cuts”. We became pathfinders. There were predators in those pine forests. In winter we crossed the upper pond as arctic explorers. One winter my brother fell in and I took him to a friend’s to dry out before facing our parents. In the spring, game appeared as tadpoles returned to the lower pond. It wasn’t until we reached Chapin Terrace that the first signs of civilization gradually began to emerge. It was the *Keep It Clean Kids* monument at the big diamond. But still there was more Park and it wasn’t until you passed the clay tennis courts that you were in a neighborhood again. A string of nameless streets with long rows of houses were next. Would it ever end? Then all of a sudden the end was clear: a barber shop, a fish store, the coffee shop, the dry cleaners and finally “Van Horn Spa”. You had reached Carew Street and Bill the policeman waved you on to your goal. You had safely reached Our Lady of Hope Church and School.

Sometimes I woke very early in the morning. Actually my mother woke me, to serve at the first Mass of the day. I don’t remember much about those walks, I must have still been asleep. But the reward came afterwards when we would go to the breakfast shop for a cinnamon donut, maybe white toast with butter and always chocolate milk.

Often Joey Ross or Richie Long and I would walk back and forth again to church for the evening novena or school function. It would be too dark for our short cuts. So we would stick to the sidewalks and amuse ourselves by singing of bottles of beer on the wall, or frogs at the bottom of the sea, or marching ants. How crisp and cold were those nights. How we loved rotten peanuts and eating them anyway.

Quite a few of us made those treks, Richie Long, Jimmy Leahey, John Cassaboom, Joey Ross, and the Tabb boys before they moved to Liberty Street. Come to think of it we were all boys. My brother did the walk too. His name is Philip and he was seven years my junior, he still is. Do the math, when he was first introduced to Sister Helen John, Sister Agnes Edward was already preparing my class to leave. I graduated from the old building in 1961 and headed to Cathedral High School while he still languished at OLOH School, albeit in that brand new one that I never really appreciated.

The priest I liked the best was Father Heberle. Everybody remembers the pastor, Father Powers; most agree he was too scary. I got the impression that even the other priests were scared of him. Years later a priest confided in me that Father Powers always ate alone, separate from his curates. Father Heberle on the other hand was a role model who did everything correctly, which is probably why Father Powers put him in charge of us altar boys. He pronounced his Latin flawlessly, he was actually quite young for a man, and he held tight to his coat when out on church business. Religion was very important to him.

All the nuns were Irish. Most of the kids seemed to be Irish too. We had more than one John Sullivan in our classroom. John P. and John J. weren't even our only Sullivans. We also had a Canavan, a Fahey, a Fenton, a Murphy, a Morrissey and of course a Kennedy. To be fair I must admit we also had a Miklewicz. We were taught by the daughters of Irish immigrants. They were young women who took the baptismal names of their Irish parents, names like Sister

Patrick Maria. Or was it Sister Maria Patrick? Those Irish were very adept at producing these selfless women.

The nuns were convinced that everyone wanted to be green, and I let them think I thought so too. The luck of the Irish it was called. They, like my classmates, knew all about Carew Street and Liberty Street, Hyland's Pharmacy and their part of Hungry Hill. But they too would have liked Silver Street and Caseland Street, Van Horn Market and the other side of the Park.

They knew that the Irish had once saved civilization and that a Kennedy belonged in the White House. But how could they every suspect that someday I would write this and that the Pope would be Polish?



*Walter Urbanek, Our Lady of Hope School '61
(5th Row down, 4th from the left of 64 head shots in our 4th Grade Class Picture)*

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